

Saturday 9 January 2016

# Amateur Photographer

**Nikon's NEW**  
**24-70mm f/2.8**  
Why this **updated zoom** raises the bar



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## About face

**3 top portrait  
pros** reveal  
their secrets

## On a plate

Meet the photographer  
who gave up digital for  
**Victorian wet plates**

## Handsome prints

Where's the best place to  
get your images printed?  
**We compare 4 top labs**



**MAKE AN EXHIBITION OF YOURSELF** Roger Hicks on how to stage your own show

'JETTY'

Jetty was photographed by Mark Bauer using the Lee Filter's Little Stopper and 0.6 ND Hard Grad filter.

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I've always enjoyed portraiture as a genre, but I don't find it easy to do. There are just so many things to think about – the background, lighting, camera settings, getting the eyes in focus – that it's easy to forget about the most important thing: the subject. I've met some great portrait photographers and often been struck by how non-technical many of them are. Or at least, the technical and aesthetic

side has become second nature so they don't think about it. They all seem to agree that social skills are more important – you need to like people and be able to engage with them.

If, like me, you want to improve your portraiture, you'll enjoy this issue. On pages 10-15, three top professionals offer their best tips, and on pages 34-35 Harry Borden recounts the day he photographed paralympic athlete Oscar Pistorius.

**Nigel Atherton, Editor**

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## ONLINE PICTURE OF THE WEEK



© PAUL HENNI

### Spateful 2 by Paul Henni

Fujifilm X-E2, 200mm, 1sec at f/22, ISO 200

In AP 24 October we looked at the work of Ray Collins, an Australian photographer who photographed waves in such a way that they appeared to be mountainous. Ray achieved this through his use of a fast shutter speed.

Here we find the opposite approach. Paul Henni has created a ghostly image of a wave and then converted it to black & white in

order to add to the atmosphere. We featured Paul in AP 4 October 2014, when he was a relative newcomer to more serious photography. He has now had two successful exhibitions, worked with fellow photographers, upgraded from an intro Nikon DSLR to Fujifilm kit and learned a lot more about creating black & white images. Visit [www.henni.photo](http://www.henni.photo).

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### Send us your pictures

If you'd like to see your work published in *Amateur Photographer*, here's how to send us your images:

**Email** Email a selection of low-res images (up to 5MB of attachments in total) to [appicturedesk@timeinc.com](mailto:appicturedesk@timeinc.com).

**CD/DVD** Send us a disc of high-resolution JPEG, TIFF or PSD images (at least 2480 pixels along its longest length), with a contact sheet, to the address on page 18.

**Via our online communities** Post your pictures into our Flickr group, Facebook page, Twitter feed, or the gallery on our website. See details above.

**Transparencies/prints** Well-packaged prints or slides (without glass mounts) should be sent by Special Delivery, with a return SAE, to the address on page 18.



## NEWS ROUND-UP

The week in brief, edited by Chris Cheesman



### New Jessops store

Jessops has opened a new store in Exeter, Devon – the 48th to open under Dragons' Den entrepreneur Peter Jones, who took over the ailing business in 2013. The new shop offers 'try-before-you-buy' displays, training courses, a trade-in service, sensor cleaning and an on-site lab.

### Lightroom reaches out to Android users

Adobe has released Lightroom for Android 1.4, extending the subscription-free mobile service to Android users. Adobe Lightroom for Android 1.4 supports raw DNG files and follows the Apple iPad and iPhone versions. For full details, visit [play.google.com](http://play.google.com).



### Commons plays host to EEF awards night



The work of 26 amateur and professional photographers shortlisted for the EEF/Lombard prize was exhibited at the House of Commons last month. The competition, designed to raise the profile of UK manufacturing, is now entering its seventh edition. For more, visit [eef.mediafiler.net](http://eef.mediafiler.net).

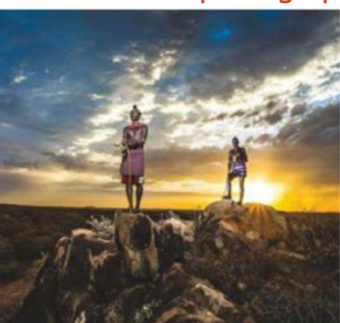
### I spy a watch camera

An 1894 watch camera took pride of place at an auction of spy gadgets at Bonhams in Hong Kong, where it fetched £11,757. Designed to be carried in the vest pocket, the Hagelein watch camera, which is an American copy of the earlier British Lancaster watch camera, features a collapsible seven-section lens tube.

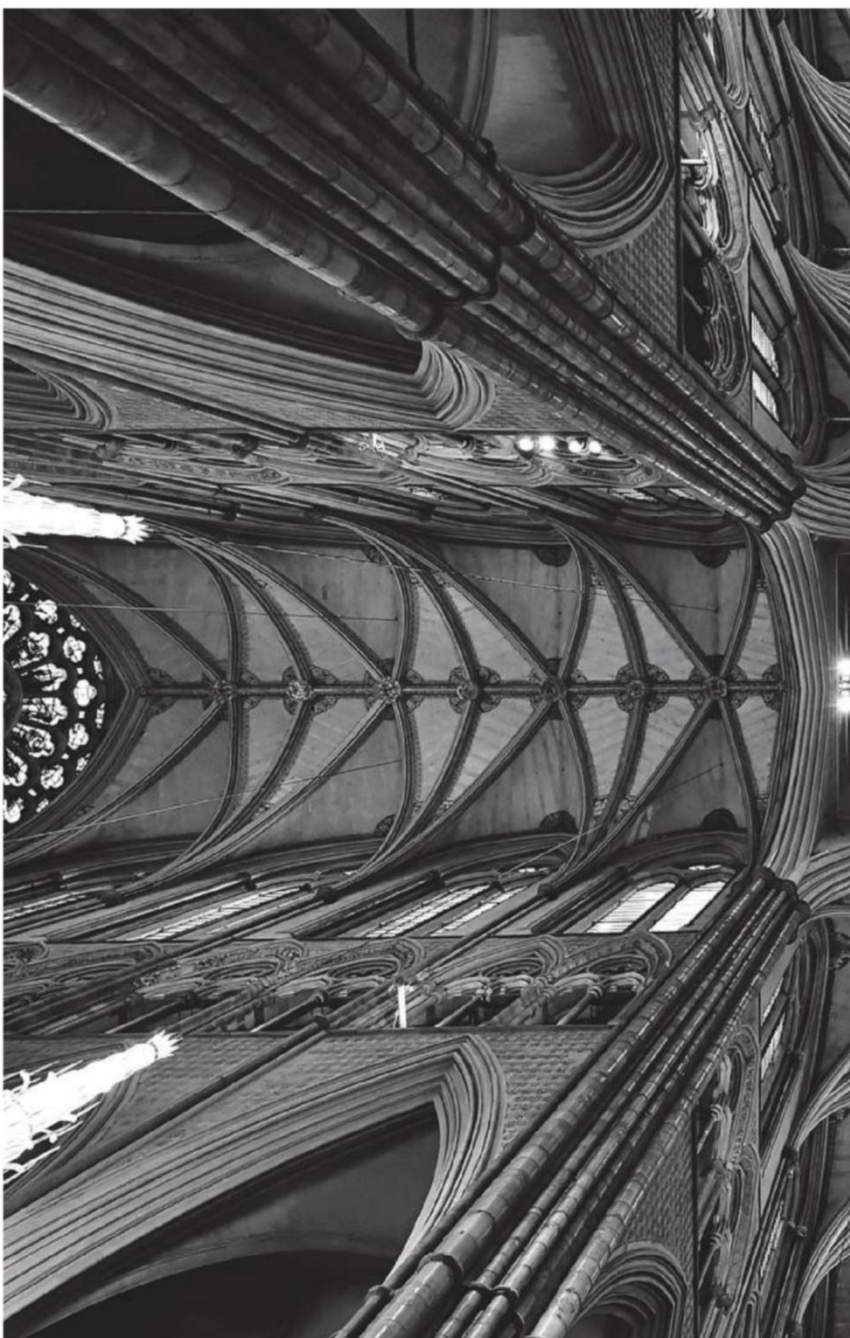


SHAWING '1894 HAGELEIN WATCH CAMERA' © GARETH CATTMOLLE/GETTY IMAGES

### Croatian photographer bags top prize



Goran Jovic, a professional photographer from Croatia, won the Gold Award in the inaugural World in Photo competition, which was also open to amateurs. His entry, 'Observer' (left), won the portrait category and top prize of \$1,000. Paul Richards, whose 'Champagne Pool' was awarded a prize, was one of three photographers from Edinburgh to earn an honourable mention.



## WEEKEND PROJECT

### Back up your images

As photographers, we put a lot of faith in the reliability of our computer's hard drive. While the price of solid-state drives (SSD) has fallen and they have become more commonplace, most of us still use drives that feature rapidly rotating disks (known as platters), with data accessed from them. They can and do fail, however (as can SSDs), and when they do, it can be an emotional experience, to put it mildly. That is, unless you've backed up all your images (and other important data) on an additional drive. If your hard drive does fail and you've backed up your data, the only major loss is the original drive and the fact that you've got to buy a new one – not the drama and pain of realising you've lost every single image you've taken.

**1** Avoid storing images on your computer's hard drive. Instead, store them on a dedicated external drive and invest in a second drive to mirror the first. It may seem like a bit of an outlay, but what price do you put on your work?

**2** Make archiving images part of your workflow. Once you've copied the images across to one drive, perhaps repeat the same step onto the other, or schedule in weekly updates to mirror your main drive.





# BIG picture

London's Westminster Abbey and its 1,000 years of history

◀ Architectural photography is a tricky genre to get to grips with. It isn't enough to just set up in front of a building and snap away. A photographer has to try various techniques to get to the heart of a building, much in the same way they would a sitter for a portrait.

Here we find a wonderful example of how to get it right. This image of Westminster Abbey's lantern roof in all its spectacular glory was taken by Gareth Cattermole. The astonishing geometry is brought to life through the photographer's lens, particularly as he has removed the colour in order to highlight the strong shapes and lines. London's most famous abbey houses more than 1,000 years of history within its walls. As well as being the site of coronations since 1066, it is the final resting place of 17 monarchs and remains a house of worship, with 28 services every week.

## Words & numbers

The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do

Andy Warhol  
American artist  
1928-1987

**3** Take this time to categorise your images properly. Sorting images can be a thankless task, but while the nights are long, now is the time to do it. Establish your own filing system – and make sure you follow it.

**4** Programs such as Lightroom will also allow you to add keywords to images and create collections, making finding and retrieving images much easier, especially if you're dealing with a large back catalogue.

Store images on an external hard drive that mirrors your computer's internal drive



© 6 TECHNOLOGY

£149.9m

Sales of DSLRs in the UK in the first 47 weeks of 2015

SOURCE: FUTURESCOPE CONSULTING





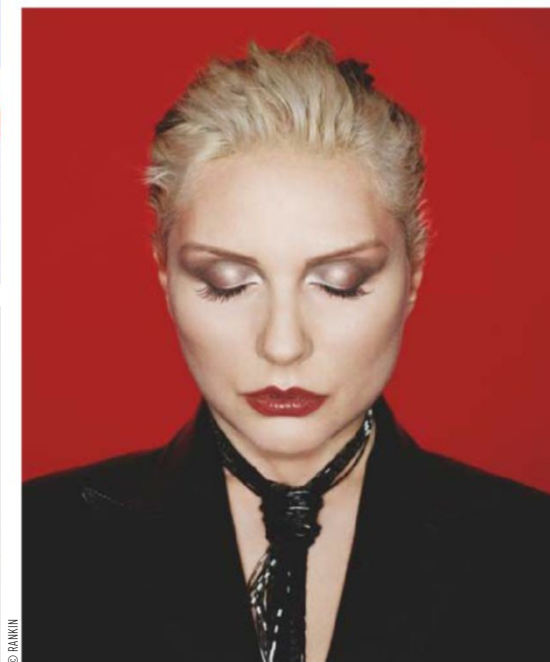
© RANKIN



© DON MCCULLIN, COURTESY HAMILTONS GALLERY



© NADAV KANDER



© RANKIN

# London on course to be 'world capital of photography'


 LONDON has the potential to become the world capital of photography, say organisers of Photo London 2016, which promises to be 'bigger and better' than last year.

Photo London takes place at Somerset House from 19-22 May and will showcase the work of 80 galleries – ten more than at the inaugural event in 2015.

The 2016 event has won the backing of Michael G Wilson, a celebrated photography collector and co-producer of the James Bond films.

Wilson has pledged to lend 12 large-scale photographs by Craigie Horsfield, drawn from his archive of more than 11,000 images.

'London has, it seems, fallen in love with photography,' said Photo London co-founder Michael Benson.

Photo London 2016 will feature a new temporary structure in the

courtyard of Somerset House, plus a new dedicated area for talks.

Benson added: 'London is the only city in the world where you dare to imagine that you would get this kind of dynamic response to a new cultural venture like Photo London.'

'We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received from the city's cultural organisations. From national art institutions like the Tate, the National Portrait Gallery and the V&A, to emerging artists, young collectors and galleries, especially in the creative hubs of the East End and south London.'

'From the best dealers to all of London's auction houses and, above all, London's brilliant photographers, we have been delighted to find that so many people of all ages share our passion for photography and believe, like us, that London has

the potential to become the world capital of photography.'

Photo London organisers have named legendary war photographer Don McCullin as the event's Master of Photography 2016.

McCullin will be the subject of a special exhibition of his work at the event.

The public will also have the chance to meet the photographer at Somerset House on 19 May, when he will be in conversation with Tate photography curator Simon Baker.

An extensive talks programme is also scheduled to include renowned photographers Martin Parr, Nadav Kander and Rankin.

Photo London 2016 will be backed by the Pictet Group, an asset management organisation.

Last year's high-profile visitors to Photo London included James Bond actor Daniel Craig.



© OWEN HUMPHREYS/SPRESS ASSOCIATION

## Calling all budding photojournalists

 AN EXPENSES-PAID photo assignment for a budding photojournalist is up for grabs in a competition run by humanitarian charity Muntada Aid.

The winner will accompany award-winning press photographer Owen Humphreys to a location in Africa or Asia to photograph the Little Hearts Project for the charity.

Entrants must submit images on the subject, 'An Act of Kindness'.

The Little Hearts Project provides free lifesaving cardiac surgery to children with congenital heart defects, from underprivileged families in developing countries.

Photographs must have been taken in 2015.

The deadline for entries is 22 January 2016. To enter the competition, email [press@muntadaaid.org](mailto:press@muntadaaid.org).

Find out more at <http://muntadaaid.org/news/1071>.



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# AP wins Consumer Magazine of the Year

**AP HAS** won Consumer Magazine of the Year at the 2015 Pixel Trade Awards.

*Amateur Photographer* was declared top magazine after photographic trade magazine *Pixel* spoke to 30 leading figures in the UK photo industry.

Simon Skinner, title manager at *Pixel*, said: 'I think it's a testament to AP's respect in the market that it has won the award more than any other title in the sector over the 11 years that the awards have been running.'

'It's such a competitive marketplace, with significant challenges facing the traditional magazine model, and so many opportunities for photo enthusiasts to consume information



via blogs and other digital platforms.'

He added: 'AP, and the excellent team within, manages to produce an issue every week... to ensure that it is relevant, interesting and informative every time. That's hard to beat.'

AP editor Nigel Atherton said: 'On behalf of the entire AP team I'd like to express how delighted we are to win this award, and how honoured we are to be held in such high esteem by the photographic industry.'

'The team works very hard to produce an engaging and relevant consumer photography magazine week after week, and it's great that this achievement, which is unique in the world, has been recognised in this way once again.'

'Thanks to *Pixel*, and to everyone who voted for us.'

The award, sponsored by Nikon, was presented at a ceremony held at The Grange City Hotel in central London.

## DSLR price wars make dent in CSC sales

**DEMAND** for CSCs has fallen 9%, as better-than-expected sales of DSLRs make a dent in the UK's mirrorless market.

Unit sales of CSCs dropped 9% in the first 47 weeks of 2015, compared with the year before, while unit sales of DSLRs fell 2.5% over the same period, according to Futuresource Consulting.

Tempting price deals on entry-level Nikon and Canon DSLRs – combined with fewer big promotions on CSCs than a year earlier – bit into mirrorless sales during 2015.

Futuresource predicted a 10% fall in imports of CSCs for sale in the UK by the end of 2015 compared with the previous year, with DSLR imports sliding 5%. Actual figures were not available as we went to press.

By the close of 2015, DSLR imports were forecast to reach 354,000 units – more than three times that of CSCs, which were expected to have clocked up 100,000 for the 12 months.

UK CSC demand declined by around 15% in the first half of 2015, but improved to around 10% year-on-year.

## Get up & go

Interesting things to see, to do and to shoot this week. By Tom Smallwood



### World Press Photo

The World Press Photo Foundation is accepting entries for its 59th annual photo contest. All professional photojournalists and visual storytellers worldwide can take part, but you can only enter online. The closing date is 13 January 2016 at noon. Note that the rules have been tightened to prevent excessive manipulation.

[submit.worldpressphoto.org](http://submit.worldpressphoto.org)



### NATIONWIDE

© RAY KENNEDY



### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

© BARN OWL CENTRE

### RSPB Birdwatch

The Big Garden Birdwatch takes place at the end of January, with the RSPB inviting you to count all the birds that visit your back garden. Last year, over half a million people took part in this major survey of the UK bird population.

30-31 January, [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

### Barn Owl Centre

This owl sanctuary in Gloucestershire is giving photographers the chance to get great shots of a range of species. The venue is closed to the public on photography days to ensure privacy.

Call 01452 383 999 to book.

15 and 29 January

### Irving Penn, 'Flowers'

An exhibition of the complete series of Irving Penn's 'Flowers', a project which the celebrated US photographer worked on for *American Vogue* from 1969-1974 (he revisited the subject up until his death), will be held at Hamiltons Gallery, 13 Carlos Place, London W1K 2EU.

Until 16 January, [www.hamiltonsgallery.com](http://www.hamiltonsgallery.com)

### Ben Hopper

London-based photographer Ben Hopper is looking for Kickstarter funding to support his 'Transfiguration' photo exhibition on international contemporary circus artists and dancers. Ben plans to exhibit at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris and the Roundhouse in London (as part of the CircusFest festival).

[www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) [search for 'Ben Hopper']



### KICKSTARTER

© BEN HOPPER

For the latest news visit [www.amateurphotographer.co.uk](http://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk)

# Viewpoint Tony Kemplen

When he unearthed a **Canon Pellix** in a charity shop, **Tony Kemplen** had no idea about the technology it used



I try to keep an eye open for cameras with unusual or quirky features, but when I spotted a Canon Pellix in a charity shop, I didn't realise that it was anything other than a common or garden SLR from the 1970s.

It was in a box with a couple of extra lenses, priced at £10. Generally, I don't bother with 35mm SLRs, but it was a model I hadn't heard of, from a major manufacturer, so after winding on and firing the shutter at a couple of different speeds, I decided to take a punt.

When I got it home I was disappointed to find that although the shutter worked OK, the mirror didn't move, and I assumed the mechanism was broken. I even gingerly tried to 'assist' it in moving, but then sensibly decided to do a bit of research. It turns out that the Pellix uses a fixed, semi-silvered mirror, the 'pellicle', that sends 30% of the light to the viewfinder and 70% to the film. The advantage of this is that there is no 'mirror slap' to contribute to camera shake.

However, for me, the big disadvantage is that your lenses effectively lose the best part of a stop in speed, and what you see through the pentaprism is rather dim. Canon boasted that the Pellix was the first SLR to use this technology, although it wasn't the last, as Canon tried it again with the EOS RT in 1989.

Canon launched the Pellix in 1965, and my example is one of the early ones, as it lacks the quick load feature introduced a year later. The camera is simple enough to use, and has a TTL exposure meter which



Experimenting with the Canon Pellix using the 'Christmas flashing-red-nose test'

## 'It turns out the Pellix uses a fixed, semi-silvered mirror, the pellicle'

uses a movable sensor behind the mirror.

I struggled to think of any practical advantages to the fixed mirror. Maybe the camera was quieter than a standard SLR, but then again this is not the kit you would use for taking sneaky candid shots. The possible reduction in vibration by having a fixed mirror would only really apply to slow shutter speeds, and ironically you'd be more likely to need a slow shutter speed to compensate for the light lost by the mirror.

The only situation I could think of where the Pellix could come into its own would be using long exposures for light painting or fireworks, when it could be a real advantage to see the scene while the shutter was open. It was Christmas time when I got around to using the Canon, and I persuaded my daughter to don a flashing red nose and move her head around, so I could experiment with an exposure of several seconds, during which I could ensure the subject remained in frame, before finishing off with a coloured flash.

Tony Kemplen's love of photography began as a teenager and ever since he has been collecting cameras with a view to testing as many as he can. You can follow his progress on his 52 Cameras blog at [52cameras.blogspot.co.uk](http://52cameras.blogspot.co.uk). You can see more photos taken with the Canon Pellix at [www.flickr.com/tony\\_kemplen/sets/72157649441284360](http://www.flickr.com/tony_kemplen/sets/72157649441284360)



**Do you have something you'd like to get off your chest?** Send us your thoughts in around 500 words to the address on page 18 and win a year's digital subscription to AP, worth £79.99

## New Books

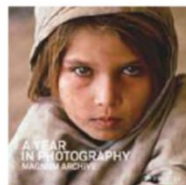
The latest and best books from the world of photography. By Oliver Atwell



© MARTIN FRANK/MAGNUM PHOTOS

### A Year in Photography: Magnum Archive

Prestel, £16.99, hardback, 752 pages, ISBN 978-3-7913-8185-5



MAGNUM collections are like a comfy chair. It's the kind of thing you can relax into and know exactly what you're getting. Every year, Magnum releases its look back at the previous 365 days, and as such is able

to produce a fairly interesting overview of the state of documentary photography and reportage. It's interesting to compare the variety of styles on display – a disparate collection that emphasises just how fluid and flexible the parameters of documentary photography can be. We see now how the nature of the genre can be altered by the technology at hand, and also see how people can in turn react to that and turn back to old-fashioned approaches. While Magnum is not quite the force it was (it is, after all, being trumped by newer agencies such as Panos and VII), there's still a great deal of substance to be mined in its archives and from its newest photographers.

★★★★★

### Umbra

By Viviane Sassen, Prestel, £40, paperback, 196 pages, ISBN 978-3-7913-8160-2



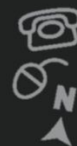
DUTCH artist Viviane Sassen is a talent who has been endlessly fêted across the photography world for her unique and sometimes controversial approach to photography, often under the loose umbrella of fashion imagery.

Sassen's work is notable for its use of geometric shapes and the ways in which she is able to utilise the human form in a number of abstract ways. In this collection of work, Sassen employs the use of shadows, sometimes literally, sometimes metaphorically, to explore the parameter between realism and abstraction. While shadows are the primary visual motif, there's still room for Sassen's characteristic use of bright vivid colour. One for fans.

★★★★★



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EOS 6D Body **£1119.00** EOS 70D Body **£699.00**  
EOS 6D+24-105mm **£1499.00** EOS 70D+18-55mm **£734.00**

## Nikon DSLRs



DyBody **£1899.00** D4S Body **£4449.00**  
Df + 50mm f1.8 **£1998.00**  
Available in Black or Silver



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D610+24-85mm **£1499.00** D7200+18-105mm **£889.00**

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## Nikon Lenses



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16-35mm F4.0G AF-S ED VR **£829.00**  
18-35mm F3.5-4.5G AF-S ED **£519.00**  
18-200mm F3.5-5.6G AF-S VR II **£534.00**  
18-300mm F3.5-5.6G AF-S ED VR **£669.00**  
24-70mm F2.8G AF-S ED **£1199.00**  
28-300mm F3.5-5.6G AF-S VR **£655.00**  
70-200mm F2.8G AF-S VR II **£1579.00**  
70-200mm F4G AF-S ED VR **£789.00**  
80-400mm F4.5-5.6G ED VR **£1799.00**

## Fuji Lenses



Fujifilm XF  
16-55mm F2.8WR  
**£740.00**

14mm F2.8 XF **£629.00**  
18mm F2.8 XF **£359.00**  
23mm F1.4 XF **£629.00**  
27mm F2.8 Black or Silver XF **£292.00**  
35mm F1.4R XF **£367.00**  
56mm F1.2 XF **£707.00**  
56mm F1.2 XF APD **£899.00**  
60mm F2.4R Macro XF **£407.00**  
10-24mm F4 R XF **£707.00**  
18-135mm F3.5-5.6 WR **£562.00**  
50-140mm F2.8 WR OIS **£1059.00**  
50-230mm F4.5-6.7 OIS Black or Silver XC **£299.00**  
55-200mm F3.5-4.8 R LM OIS XF **£478.00**

## Zeiss Lenses



Otus 55mm F1.4  
**£3170.00**

Distagon 15mm F2.8 **£2352.00**  
Distagon 21mm F2.8 **£1449.00**  
Distagon 28mm F2 **£979.00**  
Planar 50mm F1.4 **£559.00**  
Planar 85mm F1.4 **£989.00**  
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# Perfect your portraits

Before you start shooting, make sure you get to know your model

Commercial portrait photography is a tough, competitive business. **Three successful portrait professionals** share their knowledge and pass on tips to help you stand out



## Anna Fowler

Anna is a London-based portrait, lingerie and wedding photographer whose business has grown exponentially in only a few years. She has spent ten years in front of the camera and is an experienced television presenter. Visit [www.annafowler.com](http://www.annafowler.com)

### 1 It's not about the gear

When I started out, I learned that you don't need lots of gear to succeed. About a month after buying lots of lighting equipment, I ended up shooting with natural light and that's what I have been using for most of my career. I have

lighting gear for when I have to shoot inside, but for me it's natural light all the way. If I have to, I will use a beauty dish, an Elinchrom strobe and normally one light. Sometimes I use direct on-camera flash. The less complicated your lighting set-up, the more you can focus on the subject.

### 2 Be prepared to hunt for the light

I really believe that natural light is great for shooting women. With men, you can shoot them in any light, even in a lift, and still get definition – you get shadows on their faces, and it looks interesting. But most female models want to look flawless, and that is where good natural light comes in. I will hunt hard for good light, and make full use of light surfaces, white walls, light floors, concrete painted white, and so on. I can end up in some pretty unglamorous places in London!

### 3 Take control of your sitters if necessary

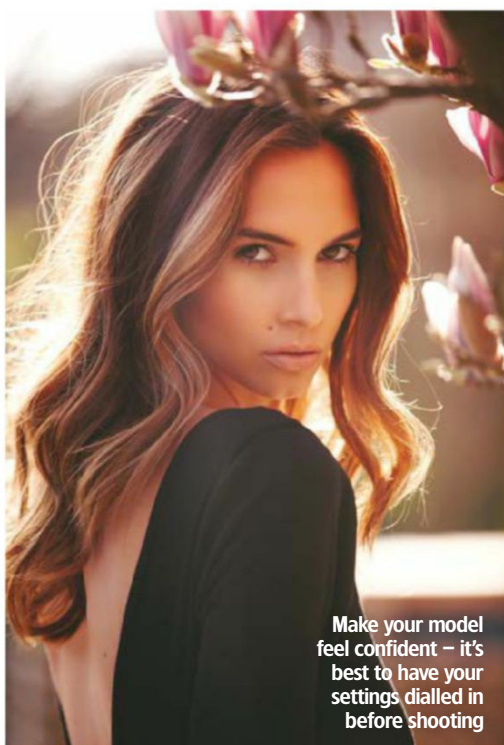
Every photographer is different, but for me, 80% of the people I shoot aren't models and they are not doing shoots three or four times a week. With the women I shoot, even if they are models on Instagram or wherever, they often don't have a lot of experience. I have found that a lot of women come in thinking they know what's going on, especially now that people take lots of selfies. I have to strip them back, so they are comfortable not knowing anything and can listen to me. I will try to take 100% control of everything if a sitter has no experience.



## 4 Spend time with your model

I spend the first hour or so just chatting to everyone who comes in for a shoot. After finding out about their lives and what they want from the shoot, they start to relax. However, you need to be aware that some people will still be tense, which will often show in their shoulders, jaw or eyebrows, so I encourage them to be aware of this. I don't stop talking, either! There is no time for the sitter to think. If you go quiet and start checking every photo you have taken, the sitter can think, 'Oh no! She's looking at the size of my thighs!' So I keep talking, keep shooting, get them to change their outfit and direct them all the time. You need to tell the person when they look amazing and encourage them. If they are having trouble expressing something, be prepared to demonstrate it yourself.

Don't be afraid to direct your model to get the shot you want



Make your model feel confident – it's best to have your settings dialled in before shooting



Commercial photography can be very competitive, so make sure you're disciplined

## 5 Prepare your settings

Don't make models wait around, particularly inexperienced ones, while you are fiddling with kit and settings. Try to work out what you need to do before the shoot starts. You need to make the models feel confident that you know what you are doing. If they lose trust in you, it will show in their faces.

## 6 Turn negatives into positives

When I started taking portraits I was working from a tiny flat, so I developed a tight shooting style and cropped in-camera,

never in Photoshop. This tight compositional approach has since become part of my style. I got used to blurring the backgrounds as much as possible in order to get rid of distractions, which again were often in my flat. I don't normally shoot wide, and this has been one of the challenges when shooting weddings as I try to squeeze everyone in!

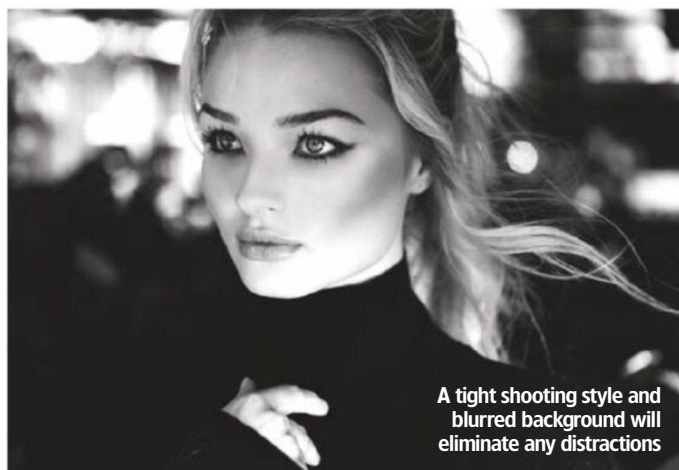
## 7 Be disciplined about the business side

When I first picked up a camera I used to take just holiday photos, and becoming a professional portrait photographer was not my intention. I was playing catch-up in many ways for the first few years. I have taught myself a lot about the business side and it's really important you take this on board. Read books, search the internet or

take a course – whatever it takes. Commercial portrait photography is very competitive, and there are lots of other people wanting to do the same thing. I have been lucky, but I have also worked very hard. I am now booked up six months in advance, all from word-of-mouth recommendations and Facebook, but now Instagram seems to work best for me.

## 8 Be very clear about who you are

If you want to succeed, you have to really want to be a portrait photographer. I am only interested in people's faces – I am not interested in shooting fashion or in commercial jobs. I am only interested in having that person in front of me so I can make a connection. I just want to take a beautiful picture of them.



A tight shooting style and blurred background will eliminate any distractions



## Brian Rolfe

Brian is a fashion, beauty and portrait photographer based just outside London. His big influences are Peter Lindbergh, Patrick Demarchelier and Herb Ritts, and his classic, timeless portraits are in steady demand. Visit [www.brianrolfe.com](http://www.brianrolfe.com)

### 9 Don't just shoot anyone who is willing to work with you

I did a lot of work with the Model Mayhem website for professional models and photographers when I was starting out. It was a good learning curve, but I was finding I was getting people who weren't comfortable in front of the camera because they were just starting out as well. I was also bringing in people who looked like models in their portfolio, but weren't really in the flesh, as their pictures were often heavily Photoshopped. I also allowed myself to become overrun by gear at the beginning. Thanks to the power of marketing and advertising, you feel you need to buy everything when you really don't. I threw a lot of money at lighting equipment, thinking it would make me a better photographer, but it doesn't.

### 10 Connect with your models

One of my best habits now is to spend half an hour with the model before I even pick up the camera, so you need to make time for this before the make-up and hair are taken care of. This time relaxes the sitter, as they get to know you better. As I do a lot of fashion work, we talk about the industry

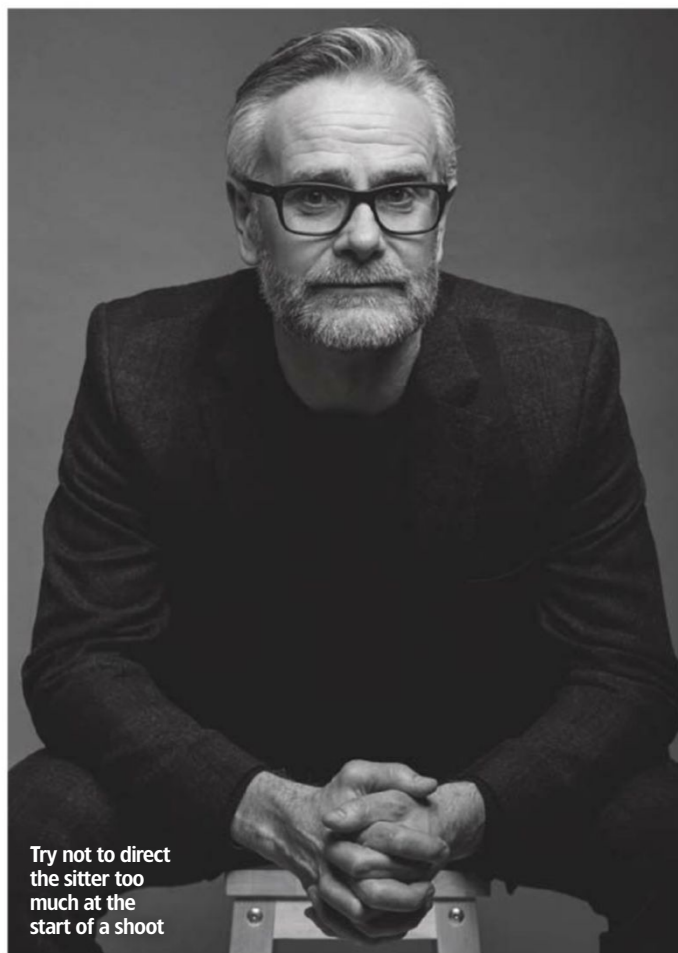
and what they are up to, just passing the time of day. When it comes to the shoot, I try not to direct the model too much unless there is a client involved. If the shoot is just a model test, or for a book, or actor headshots, it becomes very stale if you try to direct them. Put somebody in a position where they are not comfortable and it shows in the photograph. Even if you direct them later, for first half an hour or so let them do their own thing.

### 11 Don't overcomplicate your lighting

I have definitely developed the habit of keeping things simple. I've gone from Fresnel lights to beauty dishes to light modifiers used by top photographers, and I have spent stupid money. I've now stripped things back and mainly work with one light. I really do believe that less is more, and would rather use one light and reflector, and focus on the subject, rather than show off my lighting skills. My main set-up now is one Octobox and a reflector, which seems to work for just about everything.

### 12 Feather the light

I did a one-to-one with a student in the summer, and tried to explain that one light and an



Try not to direct the sitter too much at the start of a shoot

umbrella can have the same results as spending thousands of pounds on equipment. She had watched a lot of YouTube videos, where the photographer just pointed the light straight at the subject. When I explained about feathering the light – basically, taking advantage of the transition between full 'straight-on' light and turning the light away from the model – she thought I

had accidentally knocked the light away and tried to turn it back! So think about just using the 'edge' of lighting to get nice feathering effects. Look at the simple stuff before getting complicated, and how to place the light so it captures the model correctly and brings out their best features. There isn't one generic lighting set-up that suits everyone.



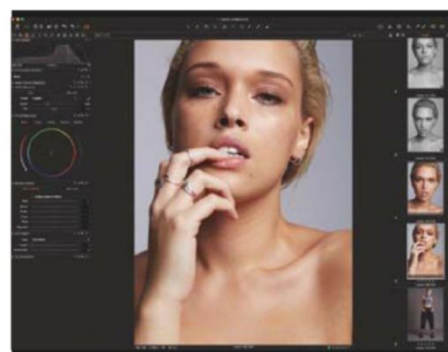
Less is most definitely more when it comes to lighting

## GOOD EDITING HABITS



### Black & white preview

For the initial raw capture, I generally tend to shoot tethered, with black & white set as the preview as I find it's easier to see how the light and shadows are working without the distractions of colour. The raw images come straight into Capture One Pro.



### Color Balance tool

Once I've made my selection of the images I want to work on, I'll go back to colour versions and then start to make any adjustments to the white balance and tweak the colours using the Color Balance tool in Capture One Pro.



## 13 Build mood boards

It's important to keep looking for ideas for your shoots. Buying fashion magazines can be expensive, so a good source for me is [www.fashiongonerogue.com](http://www.fashiongonerogue.com), which features a lot of editorial from the top magazines. I use the site to look at different lighting effects, pull poses from various features and set up a mood board. It really is a great starting point.

## 14 Connect regularly with your community

Most of my work is with portraits and model testing, and much of it comes through word of mouth. It's a tough environment, but if you put out decent work and then promote it on social media, your momentum will build. The models speak to other models, so show them your work. I don't have to advertise or approach agencies any more. It's essential to build a strong portfolio and get it out there on social media.

## 15 Take the shots you love to develop your style

There is no point trying to copy another photographer, as the client will just try to book them instead or somebody else who copies them more cheaply. I have stopped trying to shoot in a style that I think clients might like. Now I shoot what I love and that is my style. This is what will get you bookings.

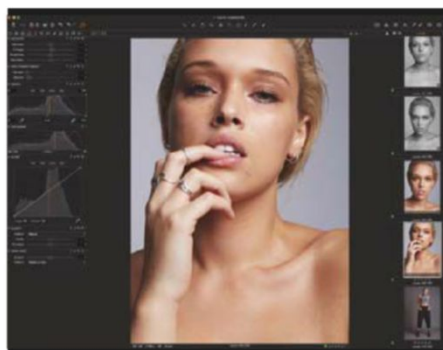


Shoot what you love, to develop a personal style



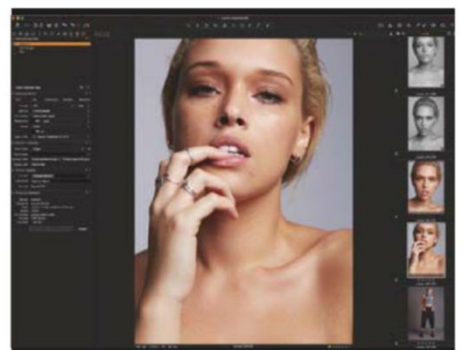
### Focus check

I'll also use the Focus check tool in Capture One Pro, as it allows me just to double-check that the image is pin-sharp where it needs to be before I continue working on the image.



### Minor adjustments

Next, I make any adjustments to exposure and contrast, and recover shadow detail if necessary. Most of the time these adjustments are minor, as I try to get as close as possible to what I want in-camera.



### Even out skin tones

Finally, I'll process the image out to Photoshop as a full-resolution TIFF file where I'll work on removing any blemishes in a healing layer, and dodge and burn on a soft light layer to even out the skin tones. For an image like this, the entire process should take under an hour.



Be inspired by the masters of the art of photography



## Woland

Woland is a beauty and haute couture photographer who has been based in London since 2012. His high-profile roster of clients include *Elle*, *V Magazine*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Wonderland* and *Playboy*. Visit [www.woland.co.uk](http://www.woland.co.uk)

## 16 Learn from the masters

The best and only lessons I learned were when I was in Italy, in the local bookstore in Rome where I used to spend my weekends flicking through expensive photography books I couldn't afford to buy. I'm still convinced that no school can ever give such thorough and detailed lessons as a curious mind can get by studying directly from the

masters. With my first occasional jobs I started buying these books to be inspired, rather than a new camera or lens, and I still believe you don't need to keep buying more gear to take the next best picture – indeed, over the past few years I've been producing more and more material using smartphones. The personal photographic library I have built up after 15 years is more valuable than all my studio equipment.

## 17 Work hard but have fun

My models are part of a team that includes my assistants, make-up and hair artists, stylists and set designers, so they get no special treatment. I'm kind to everyone, but very demanding, and even more demanding with myself. Models are no exception. The mood on my sets is usually cheerful and easy. I like to joke and I don't like to be rude, so all the relaxation comes from working hard while having fun. My models are usually chosen carefully. I often organise castings at my studio after shortlisting the models from material the agencies send me. I usually make the final choice of a model for a specific project

instinctively – it's not a matter of a pretty face or a model being a size 4, as most of what I find is in the eyes. The posing process depends on the shoot. Some require a more 'plastic' pose, others require a more natural attitude. In the end, what these different approaches have in common is my signature.

## 18 Study light with a passion

Light is what photography is all about and it is the main subject of my pictures. When photography was still just a hobby for me and resources were limited, I used to train my eyes to seize the available light, from midday sun, sunsets, cloudy skies, shadows, darkness, street lamps, neon signs, lights from a fridge, and so on. Everything emitting or shaping light can be tamed and used to make a good picture. I've learned most of what I know about light from the work of the masters, such as Jeanloup Sieff, Josef Koudelka, Leo Matiz, Arthur Tress, Irving Penn, Helmut Newton, Sebastião Salgado, Steven Meisel, Steven Klein and Vincent Peters.

## 19 Be flexible with your lighting set-ups

My current studio set-ups vary a lot, from just one light to six or seven lights for the more complicated sets, but there's no specific rule. I place a light only where I need it to be. In learning to tame light in the studio, it's useful to follow George Hurrell's approach of mixing several narrow beams in order to create a dark atmosphere. It's not the easiest thing to preserve darkness using several lights, so it's a great lesson.

Study light with a passion, knowing how it can be tamed and how you can make a good photo from it



## 20 Get inspiration everywhere

I mainly work with creative directors whose job is to invent and produce ideas. Sometimes I come up with an image and expand it to a whole theme. Other times it's the frame of a movie, a specific atmosphere, or the visual idea in a book or an article. Sometimes it's the music inspiring specific moods, or the scenes of an opera or ballet, or maybe a beautiful landscape.

## 21 Don't get in the way of the subjects

When I met Anton Corbijn, he told me: 'I started shooting my family and my friends, then my neighbours, then the guys in my neighbourhood. That was my world and my training. You get to know them, you know their environment, their attitudes, and you want to know them closer and disclose their world.' What shone bright in Anton's aura was his humbleness and simplicity. He is a curious soul and I think this curiosity about the 'other-than-

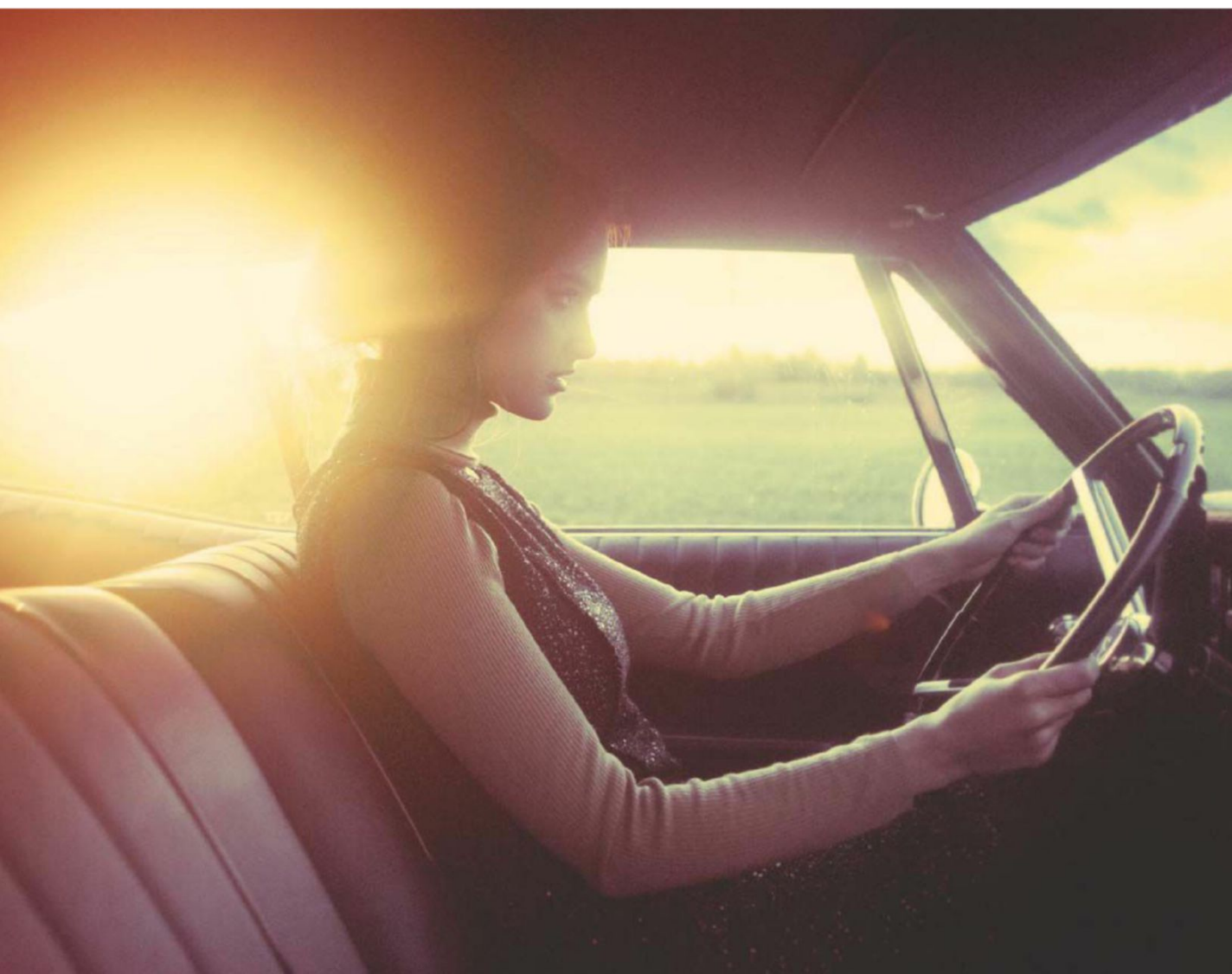
self' is fundamental when approaching portraits. Your ego should not interfere; it should certainly listen, watch, detail, absorb, imagine, invent, but if you have a prejudice, all you get is a self-portrait with the face of someone else. The best portraits, in my opinion, are those where the subjects are free to reveal their own sentiments and emotions, within the creative boundaries and lighting set by the photographer.

## 22 Slow down

The world around us presents a huge quantity of information and inspiration that overloads our sensibilities, and we miss its beauty because we are always running from A to B. Taking long walks with no destination leaves the senses free to perceive what's in between the lines of reality: you give yourself time to take valuable bits of reality and create around them. It's like a form of meditation for me. Usually, when my brain goes back down to a normal state of perception, I have some great concepts and visuals for portraits.



Make sure you have fun on a shoot, and remember, you're working as part of a team



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## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### Rare species

I need a new A3/A3+ printer and have just realised the very narrow selection generally available. If you are in the market for a dedicated photo printer, most shops now only stock Epson and Canon. If, like me, you require good monochrome printing capability with multiple black/grey pigment inks, it narrows the choice even further. I find myself looking at probably a choice of two printers from each manufacturer. Factor in any brand preference and there is nothing to choose from.

For many of us, making a hard-copy print is still the end product of our endeavours. Online printing is excellent, but it's no substitute for the fine-tuning of home printing, despite the debatable cost issue.

With such a bewildering choice of digital cameras and equipment, the printer – a vital part of the chain for many – is becoming an increasingly

rare species. If either Canon or Epson pulls out of the market, the other will have the monopoly. I just wanted to highlight this fact, as it seems a little worrying to me.

**Martin Erhard, West Sussex**

**Sadly, from past experience, other printer manufacturers have never really catered for photographers, particularly where A3 printers are concerned. While there have been other A3 printers, none has ever been able to match the quality that Canon and Epson printers are capable of producing. And, yes, if one of them ever did pull out of the A3 printer market, the other would have a huge monopoly. However, as the cost of the printers is quite high, as is the cost of the inks, I'd suggest that both will be in the market for some time yet – Richard Sibley, deputy editor**



## Win!

With ultra-fast performance, the new Samsung 16GB EVO SD card, Class 10, Grade 1, offers up to 48MB/sec transfer speed and has a ten-year warranty.  
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## SAMSUNG

### Denim is a no-go

Your article on winter clothing (AP 12 December 2015) was a timely reminder that when setting out in cold conditions, thought is required not only on what camera equipment you are going to take with you, but also on the suitability of your apparel. However, there was one glaring omission – your model was toggled out in jeans! Any walker worth his or her boots would tell you that denim is a no-go when out on the hills and, equally, on a winter photo shoot, for that matter.

Modern outdoor walking trousers provide protection against wind and rain, but they are also quick drying. Denim, once wet, retains water, leaving the wearer feeling cold, miserable and not in the best frame of mind to capture that fantastic winter's scene.  
**Nigel Toohey, Sheffield**



**Denim retains water when wet, so the wearer will feel cold**

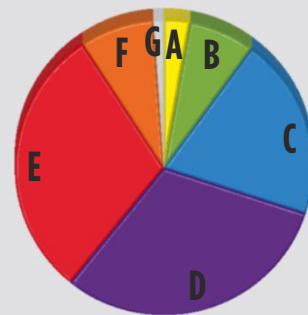
**Hands up to that one, Nigel – point well made. We had hoped to get some trousers in for the feature, but they missed the deadline for the shoot so they were omitted in this instance – Phil Hall, features and technique editor**

### Age-old problem

Following Ivan Strahan's letter (AP 5 December 2015), may I point out further problems affecting older photographers suffering from fading eyesight and arthritis?

Due to arthritis in my hands, I was finding it difficult to hold my old Canon DSLR and my trusted 17–85mm lens, so I decided to buy a compact system camera, as it is smaller and lighter. However, it had to have the ability to shoot in raw. Being a Canon man, I decided on an EOS M with the 18–55mm lens. It's a good camera, but the wrong one for me.

I need glasses for reading, so without a viewfinder I found the EOS M a pain to use. I could not see the screen in focus without my glasses, so I had to keep putting them on and taking them off – if I could find them, that is



### In AP 12 December we asked

What is the largest-capacity memory card you own?

#### You answered

A Less than 8GB	3%
B 8GB	7%
C 16GB	20%
D 32GB	31%
E 64GB	30%
F 128GB	8%
G More than 128GB	1%

#### What you said

'I have a 16GB card and fill it in a matter of hours shooting weddings and sporting events. Sometimes I fill one or two 8GB cards as well – I carry two 8GB spares. However, I empty the card every day that I use it so it never gets anywhere near full'

'Unless you have a 36MP-plus camera, anything larger than 16GB is pointless as it will result in all your images being on one card. And if it dies, you lose the whole day's shoot. I have learned that it is better to spend more on a reputable brand, irrespective of the capacity. I bought a cheap one once, and while it recorded the pictures, it was useless because of partial corruption'

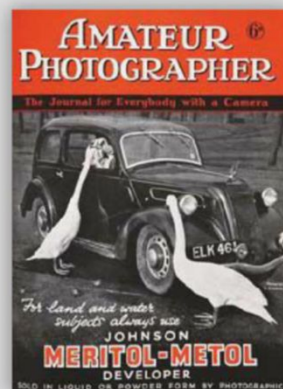
**Join the debate on the AP forum**

### This week we ask

How many camera bags do you own?

**Vote online** [www.amateurphotographer.co.uk](http://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk)

## Guess the date



Every other week we post an old AP cover on our Facebook page and all you have to do is guess the issue date (day/month/year). To guess the date of this cover (above), head over to [www.facebook.com/amateurphotographer.magazine](http://www.facebook.com/amateurphotographer.magazine). Forum members can also enter via the Forum.



The camera in AP 12 December is a Vivitar ViviCam 6200W. The winner is Dennis Low, whose correct guess was the first drawn at random.

➤ – another problem with us oldies!

So the EOS M had to go. I decided to go back to a DSLR that was lightweight and had a viewfinder with dioptre adjustment. I decided on a Canon EOS 100D coupled with my 17–85mm lens, but the viewfinder is not as bright as my eyes would wish. Needless to say, unless I know where my glasses are, I rarely use live mode. Also, it's still a heavy unit, so I do not think I am finished with changing cameras. I have looked at the Sony Alpha 6000 and was impressed with the viewfinder. Do you have any other suggestions?

**Stuart Humphries, via email**

**The Sony Alpha 6000 is excellent. I would also suggest having a look at the Fujifilm X-T1, which has a very large viewfinder that is almost comparable to looking through the viewfinder of a full-frame DSLR – Richard Sibley, deputy editor**

## Oldies but goodies

The letter in AP 12 December 2015 about using mirror lenses on compact system cameras was very interesting. I use an old original Canon FD 500mm f/8 mirror lens



**CJ Spencer's shot taken with a Canon FD 500mm f/8 mirror lens**

on a Fujifilm X-T1 via an adapter and don't have any problem focusing using the 'highlight-enhancing focus' setting from the menu. When you get used to the lens, it is also possible to estimate where the depth of field is in the shot as the highlights move back and forth during focusing. I work in manual mode most of the time and use several old FD lenses (all primes) from 20mm upwards.

**CJ Spencer, via email**

**I agree – I don't really have a problem with focusing, either. The focus-peaking features offered by most cameras help and allow for quick and precise focusing in most cases – Richard Sibley, deputy editor**

## Take care in Cumbria

As a Lake District resident, may I please underline the advice given in the winter tips article in AP 12 December 2015? I urge visitors to the Cumbrian fells to treat them with respect.

Height-wise, the Cumbrian fells may be insignificant compared with, say, the Swiss Alps, but they can still kill you. Follow the advice given in the article and make sure you are suitably equipped, not too ambitious (particularly in winter), and bear in mind that if you get into trouble the emergency services – for example, the all-volunteer unpaid mountain rescue teams – put themselves at risk for you.

Having said that, enjoy your visit to the Lake District and exploit the photographic potential of a wonderful part of the country.

**Roland Harries, via email**

**Good advice, and something that we recommend all our readers heed. If you are planning to go out walking this winter, make sure you are prepared for sudden changes in weather and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. It's always best to err on the side of caution – Richard Sibley, deputy editor**

## Contact

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*At the heart of the image*

# Creativity on a plate

Dutch photographer **Alex Timmermans** decided to ditch digital and challenge himself with the wet-plate collodion process. He talks to **Steve Fairclough**

**I**n the current digital imaging age when the 'techno-babble' is increasingly about larger sensors, wider dynamic ranges and ISO values creeping into the millions, Alex Timmermans has eschewed modern technology and decided to pursue a 19th century invention – wet-plate collodion photography. Now in his early 50s, the self-taught photographer works out of his base in Eindhoven in the Netherlands, and sets himself the challenge of producing one new wet-plate project every month. Alex dreams up his wet-plate projects and executes most of them with just one assistant.

'There are just the two of us,' says Alex from his Netherlands home. 'I make everything myself – all the props – and a good friend of mine is often the model in the pictures, so that's quite easy to do.' His narrative, so-called 'Storytelling' images are shot on location, but he does shoot wet-plate studio portraits as well. The resulting images hint at a forgotten time and have an almost cinematic quality to them, although Alex denies any influence from films. 'I love to go

to the theatre and watch movies, but I don't have any relationship with making movies,' he says. 'I have no film or photo background – it's all self-taught. It's going well – it's a case of doing what I want to do.'

Alex's interest in photography stems back to his early teens when his father had an antique shop. Whenever his father sold things he made pictures of them on a Nikkormat camera, and crucially always allowed his son to experiment with his equipment.

'I would use his machines in his workshop and also his camera, so that was my first start with photography,' says Alex. 'I began with a Nikkormat, then I had a Nikon F-801S and from there I made the switch to digital. At that time you had the Nikon D100 or the Fujifilm FinePix S2 Pro and I chose the S2 Pro. I've had several digital cameras and now I have a Nikon D700, but that has lain in the closet for two years. I don't take any digital photos, except on my iPhone.'

'Digital was quite easy to work with, but it became all too predictable for me – during a shoot you take 200, 300, maybe



ALL PICTURES © ALEX TIMMERMANS

'Spring Time', 2015







# The wet-plate process



'THE ONLY thing I can do [beforehand] is cut the glass at my home,' says Alex. 'I have to sensitise the plate on the spot, I have to develop the plate on the spot, I have to fix it on the spot, so setting up everything takes me an hour before I can even make a picture. To be honest,

you must be a bit mad to do this. Someone asked me recently, "Why are you putting in so much work for just one picture?" But it slows me down and that's a good thing.'

Once Alex is on location, he pours the collodion onto the plain glass and, just before it's dry, places it in a bath with silver nitrate. Depending on the temperature, after about three minutes he takes it out under a red light, because at that time the plate is sensitive to light.

'I then place it in a special plate holder, which is lightproof, and I can go outside and look at the ground glass and make sure everything is OK,' he says. 'Then I take off the ground glass, put the plate behind the camera, expose by taking off the cap, go back to the darkroom, take out the plate and pour developer on the plate by hand. In about 15 seconds you can see the picture coming up as a negative.'

## 'That is the most beautiful part of the process – when you slide the plate into the fixer'

Alex adds: 'When it's a little overexposed I stop the development earlier, and when it's a little underexposed I develop it a bit slower. But you can work within a time limit of 10–30 seconds. If the exposure is longer you will have a very flat picture.'

The plate is placed in a tray filled with water (the application of water halts the process), meaning that Alex can leave the darkroom and fix the plate in daylight.

'That is the most beautiful part of the process – when you slide the plate into the fixer it will turn from a negative into a positive,' says Alex. 'Then you see the picture popping up and if it's a yes or no. If it's a yes, then you can stop, but most of the time it isn't that way. When you're outside it's more about the details and when it's not good you go through the whole process again.'

'You have to have the light. Between when the morning starts and the light is dull and when the evening starts you have about five to six hours where you can work. Then you have to set up everything and take down everything. Ten plates would be the maximum.'



400 pictures and they were never 100%. You knew that, when you shoot in raw, you could adjust a lot of things in Photoshop. It didn't challenge me any more. The most logical step would have been to go back to film, but in 2009 I saw a show of Sally Mann's [wet-plate] work in The Hague; I just liked it and started to research about that type of photography. I started in 2009 and from that moment on it grabbed me. It gave me back the feeling of making a picture from scratch, from nothing.'

## Inspirations and ideas

For his current style of portraits Alex cites his inspirations as being Dutch photographer Erwin Olaf and Belgian photographer Stephan Vanfleteren, but adds, 'As far as my "Storytelling" series goes, which I've been working on for a few years now, it's Robert ParkeHarrison from the United States.'

'Inspiration can come to me from all kinds of work. For instance, I have a picture of a greenhouse with clouds, where the water is running out of the clouds. The picture was made at a place owned by a friend of mine who was rebuilding an antique greenhouse, and during the rebuild there was a lot of water running into the greenhouse. I went there and the floor looked like a mirror. I started thinking, "What can I do with it?" because I only had two weeks –

after two weeks it would have a wooden floor and it [the picture] could never happen again. It's not logical, but I started making clouds that made a whole watering system, which made it able to run down from the clouds – that was the basis of "The Rain Maker".'

Alex keeps a sketchbook close to hand to draw his ideas and gets creativity from other sources. 'One of the last pictures I made – "The Kite Runner" – was a tree with 15 kites in it,' he adds. 'I had a kite when I was young and it was always so frustrating when the kite ran into a tree. That was the initial idea behind that picture. There's always a little bit of humour in my pictures, so I said, "Why one kite? Why not 15 kites?" It always starts by seeing something or a location. It could be a stuffed animal, something that you see somewhere, or just a title. If somebody mentions a title I think, "OK, what can I do with that title?" But I try not to copy somebody else's work.'

The contrast between the time taken to create a wet-plate picture compared to a digital image is immense. '"The Kite Runner" took me two days,' says Alex. 'We had to think how to put the kites into the tree at the exact positions – it took us a few hours to place everything. When everything was ready I had to set up my tent, all my chemicals, my darkroom... I started with a cloudy day, then in the afternoon the sun



Left: 'The Rain Maker', 2015

Right: 'The Kite Runner', 2015

Below: 'Poetry in Motion', 2014



**'When it's too bright I can't work because my exposure is taking off the cap and putting it on again. So we took everything down and the next day we tried again'**



broke through. At that time I had to stop because I don't have any control over the process – when it's too bright I can't work because my exposure is taking off the cap and putting it on again. So we took everything down and the next day we tried again. It was much easier because we knew how to put the kites in the tree, but that picture took us two days.'

#### **Equipment and exposure**

The choice to pursue wet-plate photography meant Alex needed to acquire specialist cameras and lenses. The camera he mainly uses is a 12x12in wet-plate camera, which was specially made for him by a gentleman living in Hungary. 'It's a Donchev camera,' says Alex.

'I was already collecting old cameras and lenses but, to be honest, I didn't know what to do with them. So when I started with wet plate I would grab some lenses I had and then I collected some more. It's very difficult to find them because wet-plate analogue photography is rather hot at the moment and everybody is looking for the same lenses.'

'I have two or three lenses that I mainly use. For outside work I have two or three antique Dallmeyer lenses and in my studio I have a few Hermagis lenses, which are made in Paris. For the bigger plates I have a very large 24in Voigtlander lens.'

Alex explains that the ISO value of collodion photography is something between 1/2 and 1, so it's a rather slow process. If you take a picture outside at f/4 it would perhaps be 1/1000sec, but with collodion it will be 1/2sec or 1sec on a bright day. On a dull day it may be





Left: 'Tea Time', 2013

➤ 2-4secs. Alex controls things by taking off the cap.

'I just count 21, 22 and that's two seconds – it's simple,' explains Alex. 'If it's 1/2sec when taking off the cap, you don't have any control, so I prefer to work on a dull day when I can fully control the manual exposures. I don't use any shutters in the camera, so I have to work like that. A lot of my pictures are taken in the forest so there's also filtered light. Normally I use my lens wide open because I love a very shallow depth of field in my pictures – that normally takes 2-4secs.'

### Reactions to the work

Alex freely admits he has been surprised by the reaction to his work. 'It's up to the viewer as to what he or she sees in a picture, and I love to hear their stories about

what they see in my pictures,' he says. 'The nice thing is my work was discovered about two years ago and from that point it went very fast. I've met so many interesting people all over the world – in China a few months ago, in Los Angeles at the beginning of 2015 and at the galleries I work with. The world has become much bigger for me.'

As for the future, Alex says, 'There will be a 2016 exhibition in Los Angeles and in San Francisco. Hopefully, I can go to Paris Photo Los Angeles again as it was very successful last year. Currently, I'm looking for some new galleries – one in Belgium, London and New York. I would love to go to Photo London with my work – I think the English people would like the humour in my pictures. That's my main goal for 2016. If 2016 is the same as 2015, I will be very happy.'

AP



Below: 'Laundry Day', 2015



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## LOCATION GUIDE

# Neist Point lighthouse

This striking lighthouse on the Isle of Skye sits on a dramatic cliff-top location, as **Jeremy Walker** reveals



### KIT LIST



#### ▲ Lenses

If you are contemplating shooting the lighthouse, both a 24-70mm zoom and the longer 70-200mm zoom will be ideal.

#### ▼ Clothing

As with many locations, this is a landscape that is exposed to the elements and you will need windproof, waterproof clothing, a hat and gloves. Do not be lulled into a false sense of security as Atlantic storms can catch you unawares.



#### ▼ Butane cooker

A small single-ring butane cooker is a really useful non-photographic piece of kit, which I have found to be really useful for this type of location over the years. It means you can at least cook a bacon butty or boil a kettle if the nearest café is a long way away.



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NEIST Point lighthouse is dramatically perched on the sea cliffs at the most westerly point of the Isle of Skye and is about five miles from the small hamlet of Glendale, or about an hour from the island's capital of Portree. Access is relatively easy and the lighthouse is well signposted, although the roads become more and more narrow and twisty the nearer to the lighthouse you get.

There is a very small car park about half a mile away from the lighthouse, but parking is possible by the side of the road on the grass verges, although the area gets very busy during the summer months. Be warned that there are no facilities at Neist Point, so be prepared and take your own food and refreshments with you.

The main attraction at Neist Point for landscape photographers is, of course, the lighthouse. Although it is not the biggest or most dramatic lighthouse in the UK, the location and its setting are absolutely stunning. There are many photographic options – from walking just a few hundred yards from the car park along the cliff tops and looking down and along to the lighthouse, to taking a short hike down to the lower level and getting nearer to the lighthouse.

A word of warning, though – the cliffs are steep, the ground uneven underfoot and there are no fences to stop you going over the edge. Take extreme care.



Don't limit yourself to a wide lens – a 70-200mm can be really useful



### Jeremy Walker

Jeremy is an award-winning professional photographer with many years' experience specialising in high-quality landscape and location photography from around the world for use by advertising, design and corporate clients. Jeremy is also a Nikon Ambassador.

[www.jeremywalker.co.uk](http://www.jeremywalker.co.uk)



## Shooting advice

### Time to visit


Neist Point is a good all-year-round location. If you shoot the lighthouse in the middle of summer, the sunset is in the northwest and the cliffs are nicely side-lit. Summer shooting will also give you near 24-hour daylight and long periods of dawn and dusk with a great quality to the light. Visiting in the winter will probably see you shooting into the sunset with the lighthouse back-lit for a completely different look.

A circular polarising filter and a few neutral density graduated filters will also be invaluable for controlling the exposure of the sky – this is a ‘big-sky’ location.


Although the lighthouse is in a remote and rugged setting, with the Outer Hebrides in the far distance, it is a huge draw for photographers. Neist Point is also a great place for watching and potentially photographing wildlife. As well as the usual mixture of sea birds such as gannets, razorbills and shags, whales, dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks can all be seen from the cliffs from late April through to the end of the summer, with June and July being the best months.

### Food and lodging

There were no facilities at Neist Point at the time of writing, although there are plans to open a shop next to the car park. The nearest settlement is Glendale, where there is the fantastic Red Roof Café and Gallery. The food is excellent, the service friendly and there are some great artworks on the walls. There are a few B&Bs dotted around, but for accommodation and food of the highest calibre try The Three Chimneys restaurant at Colbost.



Make sure you stay until after sunset to capture the lighthouse at dusk



The quality of light can be captivating at sunset

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*A Shop Selling Nikon?  
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Thirty Years in the Making...*

# GRAYS OF WESTMINSTER THE LEGEND AND THE LEGACY

by Gillian Greenwood

Grays of Westminster is not simply a famous Nikon camera shop; for many photographers around the world it is an institution and its name has become a byword for excellence. It has won numerous awards and distinctions is the first camera shop in the world to be granted its own Coat of Arms by Her Majesty's College of Arms.

*The Legend of the Legacy* is a celebration of the last 30 years of the history of Grays of Westminster and tells the extraordinary story of its development from a tiny mail order business with modest beginnings to its present incarnation as a unique company that looks after more than 49,000 customers worldwide.

Gillian Greenwood superbly illustrated account offers a fascinating view of the singular Nikon-only camera shop and her anecdotal style provides an in-depth understanding of just what makes Grays of Westminster tick. She vividly describes the building, the man who founded the company, the people who run the shop and some of its famous visitors.

The Forward is by the President of the Nikon Corporation of Japan.

208 pages, 183 colour & black & white photographs and illustrations, 274 x 194mm, hardcover £30.00



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## Roger Hicks

Roger has been writing about photography since 1981 and has published more than three dozen books on the subject (visit his website at [www.rogerandfrances.com](http://www.rogerandfrances.com)). He is a regular contributor to *Amateur Photographer*, where he deconstructs a classic or contemporary image.

# Putting on a show

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to exhibit your work? **Roger Hicks** explains how to set up your first show, using his experiences of the Arles photography festival in France as an example

**Y**ou've made it. As you stand, surrounded by your pictures, with a glass of wine in your hand, people come up and compliment you on the exhibition. It's a wonderful feeling. But a lot of things have to happen before that happy day.

You need a theme. You need to print and frame your pictures. You need a venue. You need to decide on the number of pictures, the print size, whether or not to glaze. You need to work out prices. You need to think about publicity. You need to hang the pictures, and perhaps organise the opening night. You need to accept

that the chances of making any money, at least at first, are negligible.

Holding an exhibition of your work is a great way to improve your photography. You are forced to think about what you want to say and how you want to say it. If you are looking for a voice or a style, it is invaluable. If you want to build a reputation there is really no alternative. As I've already said, it's a wonderful feeling. It's also probably easier than you think, and it need not be ruinously expensive.

The theme is the hardest part. A couple of nice landscapes, some portraits, a few flower studies, a nude, some street shots

Temporary panels at a community centre in Martailzé. Scouting out the venue can be extremely difficult when you are dealing with short-lived temporary exhibitions: this was a two-day Christmas fair, with half a day for hanging beforehand and *décrochage* on the evening of the second day

and a really good macro shot of a dragonfly almost certainly isn't an exhibition. People are surrounded by first-class but disparate pictures every day, in books and magazines, on advertising hoardings and television. An exhibition must engage your audience. It doesn't matter how, so long as they're not bored, and to be honest, almost any reaction is better than none at all. Look for themes in your own work. What are your best pictures? What is their subject matter? Have you a distinctive style, or at least the beginnings of one?

My first-ever exhibition, at Plymouth Arts Centre in Devon in the 1970s, was one of about 20 pictures taken on the beach at Weston-super-Mare in Somerset. They were somewhat in the style of Martin Parr, except that I was shooting them at around the time he graduated. Since then, my exhibitions have ranged from as few as a dozen or so pictures (at Bristol, in around 1980) to three dozen (at Arles in 2015), and they've been exhibited in bars, restaurants, a community centre and a tourist office.



Utilising a simple Land Rover as a gallery – an open-air photo festival in France





## Venues

In the past five years or so I've had maybe half a dozen local exhibitions, plus a couple at Arles, and I've helped my wife Frances with six or seven more. Most have been exhibitions with both of us exhibiting on the same premises, usually with no other photographers. Frances is more serious about exhibitions than I am, and more willing to put in the effort and the hours, including the times when there's nobody in the gallery and you just sit and read.

Once you are reasonably convinced that you have enough pictures for an exhibition, and have made 'a few prints' to illustrate the theme, you need to start scouting out potential venues. Do not neglect anywhere that has wall space: I have heard of exhibitions in bank foyers, and seen them in a hairdressing salon. Keep your enquiries light and vague at first, such as, 'Would you be interested in...?' or 'Do you ever...?' Of course, if the venue is already a known gallery, or, for example, a bar known for hosting exhibitions, it will be a question of when or whether they can fit you in.

There are two important points here. One is 'a few prints' mentioned earlier. You need real prints, not images on the screen of your laptop or, worse still, your mobile phone. A good print has many times the impact of yet another array of pixels on a screen. It's an earnest record of your sincerity: it shows you're a 'real photographer', not just someone who has taken a few good snaps by chance. Your prints might be postcard size, little jewels that people have to examine closely, or monster enlargements – it's your artistic choice. Beware, though, of thinking if you can't make it good, make it big.

The other important point about scouting out venues is to help you decide how many prints you can fit in, and how they should be printed. There's no point planning to exhibit ten giant prints if there's no room, and in a big venue with small prints you may be letting yourself in for a massive amount of work.

Last year a friend of ours was offered an enormous exhibition space – a former church – and she normally prints quite small, at 13x18cm and 18x24cm, or near

enough 5x7in and 8x10in. She printed 150-200 pictures, in six or eight different series, and the printing and framing cost her a fortune.

You need one kind (and perhaps size) of print for a small, intimate and perhaps poorly lit venue, and another for big, bright, high-ceilinged galleries. In any given series you want consistency of colour balance (including 'warm' and 'cool' black & whites); of surface texture (use the same paper throughout the exhibition); of saturation and/or contrast; of technique (such as Frances's hand colouring); and usually of size.

Small variations don't matter, but an exhibition where some prints are 8x10in and others are 20x16in normally just makes the smaller prints look miserly and the big ones normal, or the small ones normal and the big ones overblown. Frances typically prints silver halide at 8x12-10x15in (20x30-25x38cm) on 12x16in (30x40cm) paper. I print inkjet colour at anything from postcard to A3+, but only one size per series for exhibitions.





Competition for space is fierce at Arles, and there are usually at least 20 exhibitions in cellars

## Framing

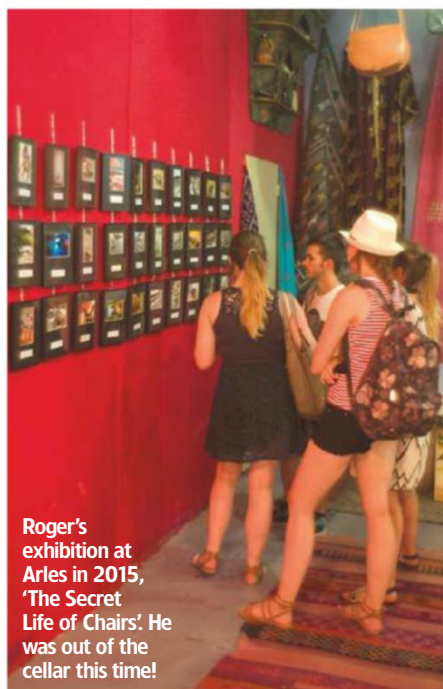
➤ You normally want consistency in framing too. If you make the prints yourself, frames are one of the greatest expenses in mounting an exhibition. We mostly use a French chain called GiFi, where we buy black plastic 50x60cm frames (20x24in) for €11 (around £8). When we see them on sale at half price, we buy all they have. We also recycle frames. If you buy cheap frames, buy them somewhere that you are reasonably sure will continue to stock them. We normally prefer glassless mounting (even though the frames come with glass) because we believe that surface texture is an important part of a print: behind glass, everything looks dull and sterile. The argument for glass is that it protects the pictures, but what good is a picture you can't fully appreciate?

The more can you do yourself – printing, mounting, framing – the more control you have and the easier it is to get good quality, affordably. Frances makes her exhibition prints exclusively on Ilford Multigrade Art 300 paper, and the darkroom was the first room we refurbished in our current house. For colour I use an Epson Stylus Photo R3000 printer with Harman paper and Fotospeed inks.

Bevelled mounts allow us to accommodate prints of varying sizes. I can cut two 30x40cm mounts from a single sheet of A3 board, bought in bulk (25-sheet graduate packs from the London Graphic Centre). If I buy 100 sheets, an A3 board costs about £1.50. I cut the mounts with an Olfa mat cutter on a Rotatrim cutting mat. The cutter and the mat each cost a bit over £50, but they last for decades and make it astonishingly quick and easy to mount prints, taking maybe

20 minutes a print. The only other tools I use are a scalpel and a straight edge. I change blades reasonably often, because overworked blades mean poor cuts and wasted mounts.

The prints are stuck to the mounts with archival tape, but the backs of the cheap GiFi frames are hardboard. This is about as far from archival as you can get, so I put a sheet of polyester drafting film between the back and the print. A roll costs about £60 but lasts for years. When the frames are recycled, the prints are stored in their mounts in clear sleeves so they can be stacked in a portfolio rack or on a table at an exhibition, so people can leaf through them and (with any luck) buy them.



Roger's exhibition at Arles in 2015, 'The Secret Life of Chairs'. He was out of the cellar this time!

## Selling

There's a fine line between underpricing (to sell) and overpricing (to show that you're serious). Older sleeved work is usually cheaper than new stuff on the walls, and pricing varies according to where you are. Frances normally prices hand-coloured silver-halide prints at €150-300 (£120-£250) and I price pigment inkjets at €60-180 (£50-£150), depending on size. We've found it easier to sell at small local venues than at Arles, even at the same price. Our theory is that at Arles, people are spoiled for choice, whereas in *La France profonde* ('deep' France), they see a lot less good work. Make sure you agree in advance with the owner of the venue what percentage (if any) is to go to them in the event of a sale. This is normally 30-50%, although many small, local venues take nothing, or as little as 10%. Ask if they're insured, too. If they're not, you may want to insure for yourself.

Get the pictures up on your website so people can look at them before or after the exhibition, and send out as many emails or paper press releases and invitations as possible. Print cards that visitors can take away with them. If the exhibition is part of a festival, make sure it is in the festival's literature.

Pictures are heavy and fragile. The frames can scratch. Frances makes bags out of cheap, heavy cotton to hold two prints face to face with another sheet of cotton in between. For hanging, chains are by far the easiest. Simple S-shaped hooks allow you to hang the pictures with very fine gradations of height.

The first night is rarely held on the actual first night. Normally, it's at least the day after the hanging, and it can be as much as a week after. Invite the press and anyone else who can do you some good. First nights are not obligatory, though – you can perfectly well have an exhibition without one. Frances and I have paid for four ourselves, at between £80 and £150 a throw.

Finally, there's the *décrochage*. Chains make this much quicker and more painless. Do it when you say you will, work quickly and clean up behind you. This makes it much easier to get another exhibition. Then, at home, you have to find somewhere to store all the unsold pictures.

Yes, it's hard work. Yes, it's time-consuming. Yes, it's expensive. You will be lucky to get away with spending less than a couple of hundred pounds just for prints, mattes and frames. But compare this with attending even a modest course or workshop, or with entering a few competitions, especially the sort that charge entry fees. Depending where you are in your exciting photographic journey, you may well find exhibiting a lot more use.



# MOUNTING YOUR PRINTS

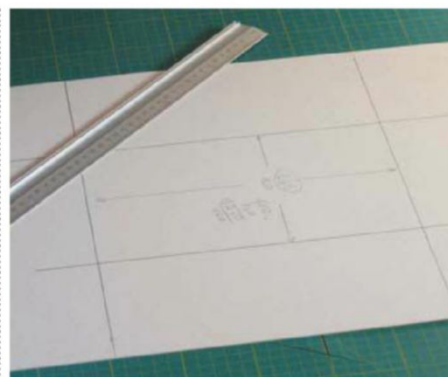
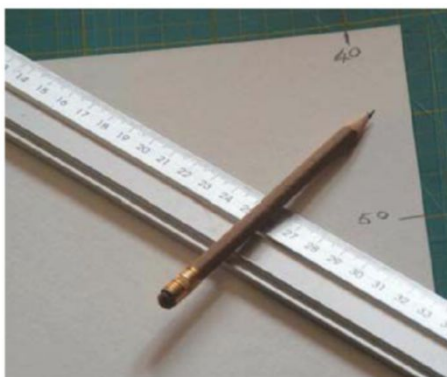


## 1 What you need

You will need an Olfa mat cutter, a straight edge, a pencil, a scalpel and a Rotatrim cutting board or other cutting surface. Exhibitions are normally 'panic stations', as there's never enough time or money. We cut the mounts while Frances was still working on the hand-coloured print from her latest series.

## 2 Measuring the print

The image is printed 160x250mm, or about 6½x10in, on 12x16in paper as Frances wanted a wide black border. Double-check the dimensions before cutting the mounts, and make sure the pictures are 'true' (not tapering or trapezoidal). Measure top and bottom, left and right.



## 3 Mark the board for cutting

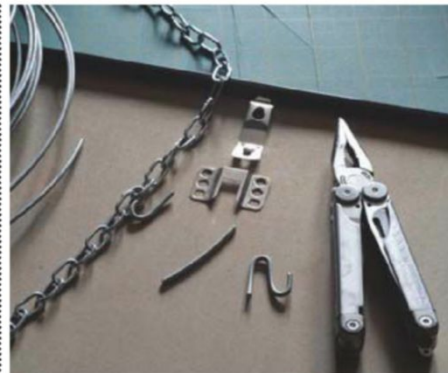
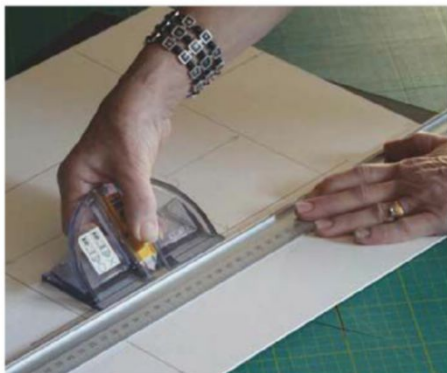
You can just about see how the clear lines on the Rotatrim cutting mat make it much easier to measure and to cut. One side is metric, the other is imperial. Cutting mats can be bought in a range of sizes depending on your needs. They really are one of the most useful tools you can have.

## 4 Cutting the board

Some scrap card under the mount saves cutting into the Rotatrim mat and prolongs its valuable life. Our cutting mat is about 15 years old. Most of the damage was incurred in the first five years before we started using the card like this. Obviously you want to do everything you can to preserve your tools.

## 5 Marking up the mount for cutting

Again, the grid on the board makes life much easier. While things like this may seem unimportant to mention, little elements such as this can save you a great deal of bother and time when arranging your exhibition.



## 6 Cut from inside the frame

If you don't cut from inside the frame, the 45° bevel will be the wrong way round. Press a bit harder on both the straight edge and the cutter than is evident here – this is just to give you an idea. Again, put a bit of scrap card under the mount to protect the mat. Make two to three cuts at increasing depth rather than a single cut.

## 7 Carrying bags

These bags protect the framed prints. Three sheets of cotton make a bag with an inner separator to carry two prints face-to-face. It should go without saying how important this is. It can be so easy to scratch or damage your work, so do everything you can to make sure it's secure and protected.

## 8 Hanging

You need a chain for hanging, wire for making hooks and reliable wire cutters. This wire is rather heavier than anything you would likely need for your own work, but it's what I had handy and I didn't want to buy any more. Better to overcompensate than undercompensate.

# Oscar Pistorius

**Harry Borden** recalls his 2011 photo shoot with the now controversial Paralympic athlete **Oscar Pistorius**

This is one of those pictures where our perception of it has changed due to the widely reported tragic events that occurred some time after. When I shot this image, Oscar Pistorius was one of the world's most famous disabled athletes and featuring across a variety of newspapers and magazines. Today, Oscar Pistorius is usually photographed while making appearances in South African courtrooms. Since shooting and killing his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in February 2013, he has become a tragic figure and convicted murderer.

When I photographed him in August 2011, he was an international athletics superstar, nicknamed the 'Blade Runner'. He had overcome the childhood amputation of both his legs below the knee to win gold medals at the Paralympics in 2004 and 2008. He was also about to compete against able-bodied athletes in the 400m and 4x400m relay races in the 2011 Athletics World Championships.

I had been commissioned to photograph him by American magazine *Outside*. I took an overnight flight to Johannesburg and on arrival I was met by an assistant, whose services I'd arranged beforehand. The magazine expected the pictures to be lit and to have high production values, so the assistant had brought all the lighting we needed in a van. He also had a big bag of biltong [dried meat], which was welcome and kept me going during the shoot as I hadn't slept all night.

The portrait session was due

to take place at the University of Pretoria athletics track. Before it began, the assistant and I spent some time arranging locations and setting up lighting. It was quite a windy day and we weighted down the lights with sandbags.

Then Oscar arrived, together with his coach and a friend. For the rest of the day we set up pictures in different locations around the stadium. I photographed him running, sitting in the changing room, in the discus net and walking on his hands on the track. I also photographed him on all fours, as if about to start a sprint. For that shot I used two lights behind him and a big softbox at the front. This image was subsequently used on the front cover of *Outside* (right).

From the time I spent with Oscar, I was very impressed with him. He was charismatic, but in a very modest way. He told me about his life and family background. He was an incredibly tough guy and seemed completely fearless.

The picture I like most from that day was taken next to the wall of the police station at the stadium (far right). It was really hot, and although I'd never normally ask someone to take their top off for a picture it seemed appropriate at that point. He had a very toned, chiselled body and I felt it would make a simpler picture if he were wearing just shorts.

He was lit by direct sunlight, which was also hitting a wall you can't see and filling in the shadows thrown by the sun. The wall wasn't white, it was more of a taupe colour, so it's not completely bleaching out and losing all detail, even



This image was shot in sunlight, with two lights behind Oscar and a softbox

though it's got direct light on it. This meant I didn't need to use any fill-in flash.

I shot the image using my Canon EOS 5D Mark II and a 50mm lens, handholding the camera. I used ISO 200, which I often prefer as there's just a bit of noise and it looks more like film. Later, at the editing stage, I retouched the image to remove some ugly light fittings, to leave a plain wall and to

simplify the image.

This picture wasn't used in the magazine. They used the more obvious ones – the colourful images lit with flash, which fitted their style.

I was really pleased to get it because it's so simple. However, the ambiguity and hint of darkness means it still resonates and has a power and a truth to it.

As told to David Clark



## USING DIRECT SUNLIGHT

WHEN I first started shooting for magazines, I always used to shepherd people into direct sunlight. Of course, it doesn't always make for a great portrait because it's quite harsh on the subject's eyes. Later in my career, I would get subjects to go into the shade if it was very sunny, because then they were only lit by soft indirect light bouncing into the shadows. However, I think as long as you use the correct exposure, it's perfectly possible to shoot in direct sunlight. I like using it if I'm making a study of a subject rather than trying to get a more subtle and intimate portrait. The faster shutter speeds it gives means you can handhold the camera, which allows you more freedom and is much more intuitive than shooting with the camera on a tripod.



## Harry Borden

Harry is one of the UK's finest portrait photographers and his work has been widely published. He has won prizes at the World Press Photo awards (1997 and 1999), and last year was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the RPS. The National Portrait Gallery collection holds more than 100 of his images. Visit [www.harryborden.co.uk](http://www.harryborden.co.uk)





# Reader Portfolio

Spotlight on readers' excellent images and how they captured them



## David Zdanowicz, West Yorkshire



David's unconventional beginnings in photography were formed when his friend gave him a great price on his old Canon EOS 60D. Never one to turn his nose up at a bargain, David snatched it up. Since then, he has spent every free moment with his father, photographing the incredible Yorkshire countryside and beyond. As can be seen in this selection, David is particularly fond of shooting landscapes and especially enjoys the challenge of capturing them under a variety of weather conditions. To see more of his images, visit [www.facebook.com/davezphoto](http://www.facebook.com/davezphoto).



## Malham Mist

1 David took this image as a cloud of mist swept over the entire village. As the sun broke through and spotlighted a single tree, he took his chance and got the shot  
Canon EOS 60D,  
70-200mm, 1/250sec  
at f/4, ISO 100





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### Horse

**3** As David notes, while the subject of the horse is incredibly strong, it's actually the sun in the background that really makes this shot so captivating  
Canon EOS 60D, 17-40mm, 1/140sec at f/11, ISO 100

### The Road to Edale

**4** David took this picture on top of Mam Tor in Derbyshire. It's an undeniably captivating and mesmerising scene, one especially notable for the road that guides the eye  
Canon EOS 60D, 17-40mm, 1/250sec at f/13, ISO 100

### Harold Park

**5** David has got lots right in this scene. It's particularly nice that he has framed the sun between the trees and ensured that the central subject, the swan, is off-centre  
Canon EOS 60D, 24-70mm, 1/15sec at f/16, ISO 100

### This Way, Mum

**2** 'This was another shot taken at Malham on a cloudy morning,' says David. 'The lamb and its mother were heading towards one another and the muted sun created a great mood'  
Canon EOS 60D, 24-70mm, 1/750sec at f/13, ISO 100





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# Appraisal

Expert advice and tips on improving your photography from **Damien Demolder**

**AFTER**



By removing some of the birds, their clarity against the background is increased

## Mosque and pigeons

Abhilash Surendran

Canon EOS 550D, 11-16mm, f/2.8, ISO 100

I BELIEVE this very impressive building is the Jama Masjid mosque in Delhi, India. It looks stunning and the colours are fabulous. It is one of those places where there is a definitive picture to be taken – and in this case it is the pigeons taking off from the plaza in front of the mosque. I'm all in favour of this type of shot, and love a silhouetted bird in flight to add something extra to an urban landscape, but in this instance they've taken over.

For a silhouette to be effective, the object being silhouetted needs to have a clear and clean outline. It shouldn't overlap anything else and needs to be shown against a background

that allows it to stand out. While many of the birds do stand out, some are in conflict with each other and are also fighting against background elements.

Birds busting out of towers and brickwork don't have the same effect as those flapping away in their own space. When there are as

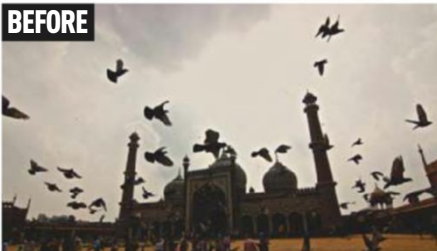
many birds in one place as there are here, it becomes distracting.

This is actually a very difficult shot to get right. It takes patience to wait until there are just the right number of flying friends in the sky and all are in the right place.

I've humanely removed about half the birds from Abhilash's original image, concentrating on those protruding from the building and those conflicting with others. The result is that we still have the impression of many birds in flight, but without the chaos of the masses that appeared before.

I've also cropped out some of the sky and lightened the whole image to direct more importance to the location, and to show the grandeur of the building. The picture isn't just about the birds – you get them everywhere – it is about the birds in this specific location.

**BEFORE**



There is too much going on in the original, making it a confusing scene for the viewer



**Win!** Send up to six prints, slides or images on CD (include the original files from the camera along with your versions on the CD). Tell us about the pictures and include details of equipment used and exposure settings. Send your images to *Appraisal* at the address on page 18. Enclose an SAE if you want them returned. The picture of the week will receive a year's digital subscription to AP worth £79.99

### Submit your images

Please see the 'Send us your pictures' section on page 3 for details or visit [www.amateurphotographer.co.uk](http://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk)

## BEFORE



The white wall has taken over the exposure, so the scene is too dark

## Boy with yoke and baskets

Dylan Smart

Canon EOS 6D, 24-105mm, 1/160sec at f/5.6, ISO 400

DYLAN has a great eye for an arresting subject, which is always more than half the battle when trying to make interesting pictures. Those of us with the technical skills but lacking the vision have a much more challenging journey, while the creative and observant have only to learn how to channel what they see in a more effective way.

Dylan's subject is fantastic, but unfortunately he is too far away,

badly framed and poorly exposed.

I suspect the dark exposure is due to the camera being allowed to do its own thing, which never ends happily when a white wall takes up a large part of the scene. Yet the composition fails to refine the way the view – from the photographer's perspective – is presented to the viewer.

I don't mind the slightly downward angle, as most of us will be a bit taller than the subject,

## Picture of the week

## AFTER



Cropping closely and lightening the image leaves us with a far stronger result

but we need to get closer if we are to form a human relationship with the boy. We are rather distant and he is too small.

I've lightened the image to compensate for the camera's misreading of the scene, so the boy's smiling face can be revealed and the wall can be closer to white. And I've cropped away all the stuff we don't need, so it becomes more obvious what the picture is about.

The subject is compelling, well seen and Dylan shows promise by capturing the raw materials of a great shot. Some practice in the technical department is required, though. If Dylan combines this with his good eye for a picture, his results will be excellent.

Even though I've done rather more than my fair share of the work here, I still admire Dylan's eye, so he wins my Picture of the Week award. Well done.

## Sleeping workers

Aniket Kasture

Nikon D5200, 18-105mm, 1/50sec at f/5.6, ISO 125

THERE IS a lot to like about Aniket's shot of men sleeping under their truck. They make a great subject, and the idea of people sleeping under a vehicle is exciting and fascinating, as it's something few of us have experienced. I like the low angle he has shot from, too: it would have been easy for Aniket to shoot from a standing position, looking down on the men.

From his low viewpoint, we gain a much better connection with the situation and also discover what it looks like under a truck, which adds to the interest. The scene is peaceful and full of atmosphere too, and it's all surprisingly comfortable.



The tyre is too dominant in the original image

What doesn't work so well is the dominance of the truck's tyre. I'm assuming that the men are the subject, not the tyre. However, with the focus very firmly on the treads, and the exposure opened up for the dark rubber, we could be excused for thinking that Aniket wants us to look at this first.

As photographers, we must make it very clear what we want the viewer to look at first – and crucially the order in which those

things are looked at. Here, the first thing we see is the tyre, and when we look away at the man on the right, the tyre starts screaming for our attention.

I quite like the fact that the men are slightly out of focus (although I would have focused on them) so I'll excuse that creativity, but the tyre needs to be taken down a bit. Aniket could have done that with exposure, so I've simulated what a slightly darker picture might have



By darkening it, attention is drawn to the sleeping men

looked like. The tyre is still in focus, but with less light it's less dominant and doesn't hold our attention so much. We can notice the tyre, enjoy the perspective that it introduces, then take our time looking at the sleeping workers.

It's a great shot and a fabulous angle, but more thought needs to go into what the viewer sees first and how that influences what we think the picture is about.

**Damien Demolder** is a photographer, journalist and photographic equipment expert, speaker, judge and educator. He has worked in the photographic publishing industry for 17 years, including 15 years at *Amateur Photographer*. He uses a wide range of equipment, from wooden plate cameras to the latest DSLRs, and is a great fan of all products that make good photography more accessible to more people





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# Accessories

Useful gadgets to enhance your photography, from phones to filters...

## Navitas Daltrey Parka

£149.99  
navitasoutdoors.com

**Callum McInerney-Riley**  
puts an outdoor jacket to the test

NAVITAS Outdoors originally produced products for the angling market, but for the past few years it has diversified into outdoor clothing. It designs high-quality garments for hiking, camping, fishing and extreme sports, with a variety of styles that are always on-trend. The new Navitas Daltrey Parka is an everyday jacket that is both warm and stylish. Inside, there's a bright yellow quilted polyester lining that's very soft, and offers good insulation. The outside is made from a nylon/taslon material, which is both waterproof and breathable. The jacket also boasts fully taped seams, ensuring it won't leak. Its waterproofing has a 5,000mm rating, which is suitable for even heavy downpours, and its breathability helps to allow moisture to escape from the fabric, keeping the wearer dry.

On the front of the jacket are two large pouch-style pockets that are big enough to house a compact system camera or a large compact camera, but they are equally useful for lenses, filters, cables and spare batteries. The lining on the inside is fleece and to the side of each big pocket are two further pockets, also fleece lined. This means that even with items in the big pocket, the wearer has somewhere to keep their hands warm.

### Verdict

The Navitas Daltrey Parka is rather stylish, so it can also be used for day-to-day wear. Although our review sample is blue, a green version is also available.

Having worn it every day for the past few months over other layers, I found the jacket very warm, and the drawstring around the waist helps pull the jacket into the body. It's also light enough to be worn through the spring and autumn months.

### At a glance

- Removable faux-fur hood
- Fully waterproof
- Soft polyester lining
- Seven large pockets
- Fully tapered seams



### IN THE RANGE

#### Navitas Agent Jacket

£89.99

This has a removable heavyweight fleece layer, which makes it versatile. It is available in dark green or camouflage, so is a good choice for wildlife photographers.



#### Navitas Cypress Cagoule PPS

Around £49.99

A perfect addition to your kit bag, this cagoule is lightweight and waterproof. It packs away into the pocket on the front and is available in blue, yellow and wine.



#### Navitas Alpha Quilt

£49

This is a well-designed quilted jacket with a plenty of pockets for carrying kit, including two hand-warmer pockets and three external ones. It's not waterproof, but it is showerproof.





# Takeway T1 Clampod

● £49.99 ● [www.takeway.tw](http://www.takeway.tw)



SMALL camera supports that latch on to objects in your environment, such as desks and trees, aren't particularly new. Companies such as Joby have been doing this for a number of years. However, the Takeway T1 Clampod is slightly different. As the name suggests, it's a tripod and clamp all in one. Supplied in the box is a stabilising foot allowing the Clampod to act like a regular tabletop tripod, standing around 16cm tall. Using an easy-to-manoeuvre plastic handle, the vice mechanism can clamp down on to a variety of surfaces, opening up by 5cm. The clamp has cubic tips with flat, small ridges or deep ridges to help create better grip on different surfaces. On the top is a ball head that can be rotated 360°, while a 90° cut groove allows for portrait-format shooting when the device is upright, and more positions when clamped to something that's not upright.

On the top is a standard camera tripod thread and the plate can be conveniently removed to let the user easily screw it into the camera. This means users can change cameras without having to take the Clampod out of position. Takeway rates its Clampod to 3kg – enough to hold a medium-sized DSLR with a lens. The Clampod's construction is of high quality, with a very solid build.

Other nice features are the special attachments that make it possible to hold tablets and smartphones, so it's ideal for keeping on a desk, in a car, in an office or mounted on your bicycle. It is good to know it has a secondary use because I can only assume not many photographers are going to need to clamp their cameras to a tree on a daily basis. Overall, this is quite a nice product and in comparison to others available it's far more robust and secure without being too heavy. GoPro enthusiasts will love it.

**Callum McInerney-Riley**



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ROUND THREE  
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# AFOY

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## Amateur Filmmaker of the Year competition

Your chance to enter the UK's newest competition for budding amateur filmmakers

TO COINCIDE with the launch of The Video Mode website, we're pleased to announce our new Amateur Filmmaker of the Year (AFOY) competition. AFOY challenges you to get creative with your filmmaking, and gives you the opportunity to win some fantastic prizes worth £10,000 in total.

The competition is split into three rounds, each with its unique theme: Nature, Time and Love. To enter, submit a video no more than five minutes in length, of HD quality. You can shoot on any camera you'd like, and the content and editing are up to your imagination – so long as it fits

the round's particular theme.

Visit [www.thevideomode.com](http://www.thevideomode.com) to view the top videos, as well as the scores and a leaderboard for the overall competition. The winner will be the person with the most points after three rounds, who will win the overall prize as well as title of Amateur Filmmaker of the Year.

### Round Three: Love

We want to see how you convey your love for someone or something through film in a creative way for this round. Try using techniques such as 'lens whacking' or 'light leaks' to add that soft feel to your footage. For examples, go to [www.thevideomode.com/examples](http://www.thevideomode.com/examples).

### Rounds and dates

Below is a list of the competition rounds, their themes and the dates you need to know. To view the results, visit [www.thevideomode.com](http://www.thevideomode.com). When planning your entry, take into consideration the criteria of fulfilling the brief, creativity and technical excellence on which you'll be judged.

Theme	Opens	Closes
Round One: Nature	1 Aug	30 Sep
Round Two: Time	1 Oct	31 Dec
Round Three: Love	1 Jan	28 Feb

The overall winner will be announced in April 2016

### Prizes

Enter to win your share of prizes worth over £10 000! Here's what you could receive:

#### Round One

Canon EOS 7D Mark II, worth  
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Canon Legria Mini X, worth £329.99

#### Round Two

Canon EOS 5D Mark III, worth £2,499.99  
Canon Legria Mini X, worth £329.99

#### Round Three

Canon XC10 (with 128GB CFast card  
and reader), worth £1,999.99

Canon Legria Mini X, worth £329.99

#### Overall prize

Canon Cinema EOS C100 Mark II,  
worth £3,599.99

Visit [www.thevideomode.com/afoy3](http://www.thevideomode.com/afoy3)

to send us a link to your short film and to view the full terms and conditions

THE **VIDEO** MODE In association with **Canon**



## Tested

Jessops  
Photobox  
Tesco Photo  
WhiteWall



WHITEWALL

WhiteWall's prints  
achieved a five-star rating

# Printing services

Rescue your best photos from your hard drive, get them printed and share your creativity with family and friends. **Amy Davies** puts a few photo labs to the test

**H**ow many of your photos are currently languishing on your hard drive, never to see the light of day? Perhaps if they're really lucky, they'll get a posting to Facebook or Instagram. So why not use a printing lab to liberate your best shots? There's a huge range of printing services to suit all budgets.

You could always take on the challenge of printing at home, but this requires the necessary equipment – namely, a decent photo printer that is likely to guzzle up masses of costly ink. If you only want to print the odd photo for

framing, or perhaps as a gift, getting a professional to do the hard work for you is more cost effective – especially if you want to print larger than A4.

On the downside, by handing over the responsibility to someone else, you'll have to relinquish control over every detail of the printing. And should you want a test run it will be a costly and, perhaps more frustratingly, a time-consuming affair.

Printing sizes vary widely, but generally start from a standard 6x4in, rising to, well, almost as big as you would realistically ever want – poster sizes up to A0 are

commonly available. You'll find a wide variety of different finishes, too, depending on personal preference. Some may prefer a glossy finish, while others like the subtlety of matte. All the labs in this test offer glossy printing, but not all offer matte.

## Image ratio

There are several points to consider before you send your photo to the printing lab. You'll need to think about the ratio of your image compared to the ratio of the print you order. For instance, if you order a 4:3 image to be printed at 6x4in (a 3:2 ratio),

then some cropping will be required. If you're lucky, it will be you who decides the crop, otherwise you may find that the lab just cuts indiscriminately. So it makes sense to do the cropping yourself before printing, saving the file at the exact size that will be printed.

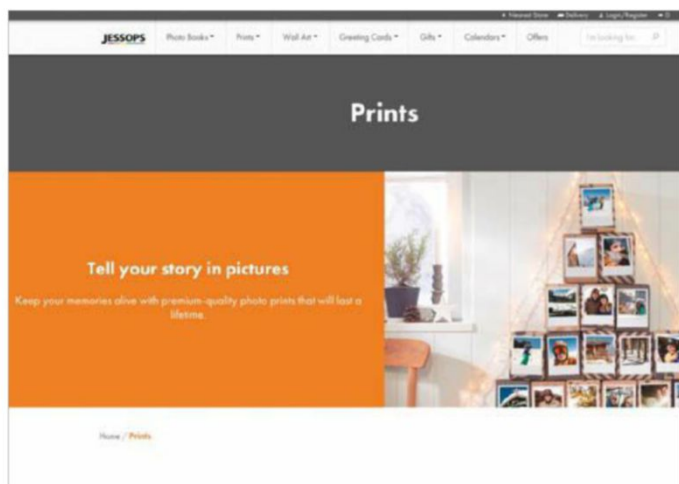
It's also worth considering the colour profile of your image. Most cameras shoot at sRGB by default, but many choose to switch to the Adobe RGB profile for more accurate colour printing. Furthermore, some labs will automatically apply colour correction, while others will print exactly what is given to them.

Here we've tested four print labs, finding out how easy it is to order the product, pricing, delivery times and, of course, the quality of the finished product.

## Jessops Photo

● [www.jessops.com](http://www.jessops.com) ● Prices: from 6p per print

This dedicated photographic retailer allows you to order online or via its desktop software



WHILE Jessops Photo has a good range of products on offer, this specialist photographic retailer doesn't actually give the end user a great deal of control. You can order from within the website or, if you prefer, you can download the company's desktop software.

If you stick with the website rather than the software, you should still have a very straightforward experience. Once you've uploaded an image, you can choose the printing size from a small drop-down menu, which for normal prints goes up to 12x8in. If you want something larger, you'll have to head to either the Photo Enlargement or Wall Art section, where you can choose from prints starting at 30x20cm, or posters starting at 20x30cm and ranging up to 100x150cm.

After you've uploaded your photo and selected your print size, you'll see that, by default, Photo Optimisation is switched on. Jessops says this optimises the sharpness, colour and contrast of your digital images, but is best suited to images directly from a digital camera that you have not altered yourself. If you have already edited your photo, you can disable this option.

As well as standard photo printing, Jessops also offers canvas, aluminium, acrylic and foam-board prints. Prices across the site vary, but are roughly in line with both Tesco and Photobox. Small prints (6x4in),

start from 6p, but again only if you order a large number of prints, otherwise prices start from 15p.

Other print sizes are also reasonably priced, with a 10x8in costing £1.25, a 12x8in priced at £1.99, while an 18x12in print (A3 size) costs £3.99.

Jessops only offers a gloss finish for prints and enlargements, which is a somewhat disappointing lack of choice from a dedicated photographic retailer. You can't change the crop of your image, either, which isn't a problem if you pre-crop your images to the exact size before you upload. Nonetheless, it would be a welcome feature.

You can have your prints delivered to your nearest Jessops store or to your home. So if it makes sense for you to pick up the prints yourself, you can save some money (delivery starts at £2.75). Postage prices can be combined if you're ordering one type of product, but if you're ordering different types (as we did – three prints and one enlargement), you'll be charged twice for postage as they are delivered in different containers.

Delivery varies depending on the product, but is estimated at 2–4 business days for standard prints, 4–6 days for enlargements and 5–7 days for posters.



## PhotoBox

● [www.photobox.co.uk](http://www.photobox.co.uk) ● Prices: from 5p per print

Simple to use, the PhotoBox site has a huge range of sizes and represents good value for money



GOOD value and a range of different printing sizes, formats and finishes make PhotoBox an attractive option. It's simple, too.

To get the most from the PhotoBox website, create an account. In that way, you can create albums, which you can come back to later and order more prints.

Once you've uploaded a photo into an album, you can either choose to print individually from within that album, or order the entire album. The former option is better if you want different sizes and finishes, while the latter is a simple way to do it if you want to order a uniform set.

There's a great range of different sizes, with 'standard' prints ranging from 5x3.75in to 6x4.5in, or 'large prints' starting at 8x6in up to 15x10in. For the smaller 'standard' prints, you can choose between 'Classic', which are printed on Fujifilm Crystal Archive paper, or upgrade to the thicker Fujifilm Crystal Archive Supreme paper. Premium prints also come with a free protective case. All large prints are printed on Fujifilm Crystal Archive paper. Any size of print can be ordered with a matte or gloss finish.

There's also retro printing, which creates a Polaroid-style image, or square printing – handy for Instagram-style shots. Canvas, acrylic and aluminium printing is also available from PhotoBox under the Canvas & Wall Art section of the website.

Poster prints can also be ordered if you're looking to print from 14x11in upwards. The largest print size is 45x30in.

Ordering a print is straightforward, with various size and finish options that you can select from drop-down menus. The pricing structure is included while you're ordering, so you can make decisions as you go.

A button labelled 'Get the most from your photos' takes you to a tool that ensures your image is cropped correctly – especially if it is a different aspect ratio to the original image. You can also 'shrink-to-fit', which results in a white border around the image.

Prices start from 5p for a 6x4in print, but only if you order over 500 prints. Otherwise, for 1–199 prints you'll pay 12p per print, which is reasonable. Premium prints rise to 15p. For large prints, prices start at 40p for a 8x6in, rising to £3 for a 15x10in print. Poster prints start at £5, rising to £14 for the largest – again, a reasonable price. You can add £1 to print the poster on thicker 'Pro' paper.

PhotoBox suggests that most items will be delivered to your door within a week of placing an order. Delivery prices start from £2.99. On weekdays, same-day dispatch is offered if you order before 4pm.





# Tesco Photo

● [www.tescophoto.com](http://www.tescophoto.com) ● Prices: from 15p per print

Need to collect your prints within the hour?  
Then Tesco is the photo printing service for you



TESCO'S photo-printing service allows you to collect your photos in just one hour, which is perfect if you need your prints in a hurry. Navigating this supermarket chain's website is easy, and you can start the process of uploading your prints very quickly. You also have the option to upload photos from social networking sites such as Facebook and Instagram, or, of course, from your own computer.

Supported files are JPG, BMP and PNG, but it's not clear whether colour spaces other than sRGB are supported. Once the photo is uploaded, you can order prints – ranging in size from 6x4in up to 12x8in. You're only given the option of a glossy finish, so if you're after matte prints you'd better look elsewhere.

Helpfully, you can alter the crop of your image at this point. Simply click on the 'change crop' button underneath your image to make sure it's how you want it.

If you want to print larger than 12x8in, then head to the Poster Prints section. Here, image sizes start at 10x15in, going all the way up to 60x40in. Again, there's no choice of finish – and additionally, you cannot crop your image correctly, so it's best to make sure you've already done that yourself before you upload.

For poster prints of around A3 size the price is £6.50, which is great value, while the smaller prints up to 12x8in max out at £1.50. This is great if you want to

make up a few prints for framing, or to use as gifts. Tesco Photo also offers canvas printing, with prices starting from £24.50.

Once you've chosen your prints, you can place your order. Delivery is free if you have the photos sent to your local Tesco store for collection. Some stores also offer one-hour printing (for the smaller sizes only). You simply enter your postcode to find your nearest store offering the service. The one-hour printing service does cost a little more, with a £1.50 12x8in print rising to £3.50 with this service.

Alternatively, you can have the prints delivered to your home. This starts at £2.25 for the smaller prints, rising sharply for the larger, poster-sized prints. So it's worth having them delivered to a store if you can easily collect.

A delivery time of seven days is promised, whether you choose to have them sent to a store or to your own address (unless you choose the one-hour service).

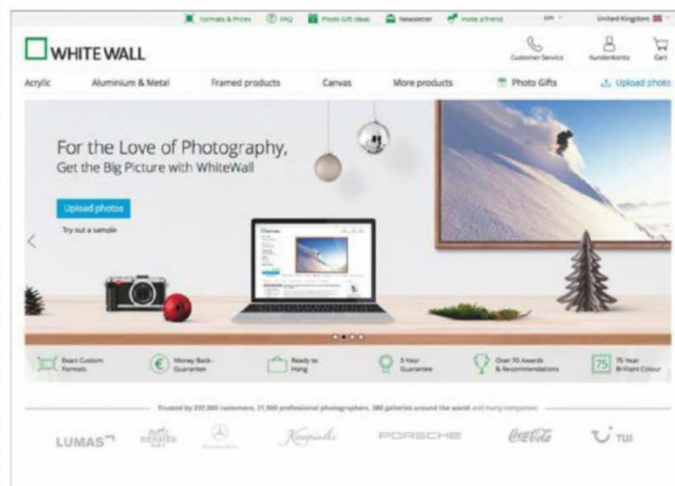
This service is very much a basic upload-and-go model, which is great if you're in a hurry, or want the convenience of being able to pick up your prints when you do your weekly shop. However, with not much in the way of customisation or different options to choose from, it's probably not suited to serious photographers.



# WhiteWall

● [uk.whitewall.com](http://uk.whitewall.com) ● Prices: from £2.90 per print

White Wall is a premium service comes with a premium price, but it's difficult to fault the quality



FOR THOSE wanting ultimate control, including a range of different high-quality photo papers, WhiteWall gives you a smorgasbord of choice. At the premium end of the market it offers a huge range of different papers, finishes and formats. Along with photo prints, WhiteWall also offers acrylic, aluminium and metal prints, framed products, and canvas and wood.

The WhiteWall website is sleek and well designed, guiding you from uploading to ordering in a straightforward manner. Once you've created an account and uploaded the photo(s) you want to order, they will be saved to your account so you can reorder in the future if you wish.

Click on any of the photos you've uploaded and you'll be able to choose your product from a menu on the left-hand side of the photo. You'll be presented with several options, including the paper, size and format, protective lamination and whether the image is framed or bordered.

This is confirmed by a colour space disclaimer – you can upload files in RGB or CMYK, the latter of which will be converted to RGB during the production process. If no colour profile is attached to the file it will be assumed that it has an sRGB profile. You can download an ICC colour profile for every type of print, which WhiteWall offers to ensure colours are how you want them.

Photo prints start from 15x10cm (in the 3:2 format, with several others available). WhiteWall is based in Germany, so all measurements are in metric – something to be aware of when you're resizing images before you upload them to the website. At the other end of the scale, you can order prints as large as 180x120cm or move up to poster printing, which is available up to sizes of 180x120cm.

It's fair to say that WhiteWall is aimed at serious printers who know exactly what they want. It can be a little overwhelming trying to choose the best paper and print combination if you are just starting out. Prints aren't cheap, but the promised finish and papers used are designed to make up for that. For the smallest print (15x10cm, which is equivalent to a 6x4in print), you'll be looking at a minimum £2.90 per print. Prices vary depending on the size and paper, but as an example, the 30x20cm Lightjet Print on Kodak Metallic paper we ordered was priced at £12.95, while a 45x30cm Lightjet Print on Fujifilm Fujiflex high gloss cost £30.95.

Delivery times are longer than the other printing services on test here, with a suggested standard time of eight working days, but it costs just £3.95.



## Verdict

THE THREE UK-based labs (Tesco, Jessops and PhotoBox) were the quickest, all arriving within 3-5 business days, while the WhiteWall prints took a little longer – around eight business days. This is a good result, considering they are shipped from Germany.

WhiteWall was by far the most expensive, at £114.60 for two A3 prints, and six 12x8in or 10x8in prints. The PhotoBox order, which comprised the same number of prints, cost £26.78. Meanwhile, the Jessops order, which had one A3 print and three smaller prints, was £13.98, while Tesco's was similarly priced at £14.50. Prices include p&p.

PhotoBox, Jessops and Tesco all delivered their A3 prints in a poster tube, separately from the other smaller prints, which were delivered in cardboard A4-sized boxes. All prints arrived safely and were well packaged.

The WhiteWall package was a large rectangular box with a round tube inside around which the prints were wrapped (not placed inside). Each print was also carefully covered with a protective piece of tissue.

### Colour matching

A black & white portrait, a colour portrait, a colour landscape for a small print and another colour landscape for the A3 print were ordered from all labs. The black & white prints displayed the most differences. The Tesco image had a blue tint, which was completely unrepresentative of the supplied file. The Jessops image had a nice tone, but displayed a little too much contrast. The PhotoBox one was a little washed out, although the matte print was better. WhiteWall was undoubtedly the best and most accurate.

For the colour portrait, WhiteWall had the best overall finish, but PhotoBox came a very close second. Colours in the Tesco prints were a little flat, while the Jessops image was too contrasty. Conversely, the colour landscape from Tesco displayed more warmth than the Jessops print, but also had more detail. PhotoBox's was the most accurate image; the WhiteWall version was also excellent.

Finally, for the A3 landscape, the Tesco print was slightly dull. The Jessops print displayed a graininess that isn't present in the original. Again, PhotoBox and WhiteWall both produced excellent prints – it would be a challenge to spot too much of a difference between them once framed and hung.

### Final verdict

Overall, PhotoBox puts in a performance that's both consistent and good value, with a wide range of sizes and a choice of finishes. However, the WhiteWall prints are also undeniably beautiful and well suited to those who have very specific needs. It's disappointing not to see a better performance from Jessops, while Tesco is let down mostly by its black & white tones.

### JESSOPS

Both the b&w and colour portraits were a little too contrasty compared with the original file, and the A3 landscape displayed some grain

### PHOTOBOX

PhotoBox's matte black & white print was better than the gloss, but the colour landscape was the most accurate of all services on test

### TESCO PHOTO

The b&w print from Tesco came with a distinct blue tone, which didn't represent the original file, while the landscape was rather dull







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**Joe Cornish – Smooth Cotton 300**

I aim to crystallise the endlessly varied light, colours and texture of nature in my landscape photographs. At the end of a chain of photographic processes, the print is the culmination and fulfilment of that effort, and the paper is critical to the success of the print. Fotospeed's Smooth Cotton 300 is my paper of choice.



**Trevor & Faye Yerbury – Natural Soft Textured Bright White 315**

As traditional darkroom printers it has taken us many years to discover the right paper for our digital images that will capture and hold all of the shadow and highlight detail we demand. Natural Soft Textured Bright White is our preferred paper.



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**John Swannell – Platinum Baryta 300**

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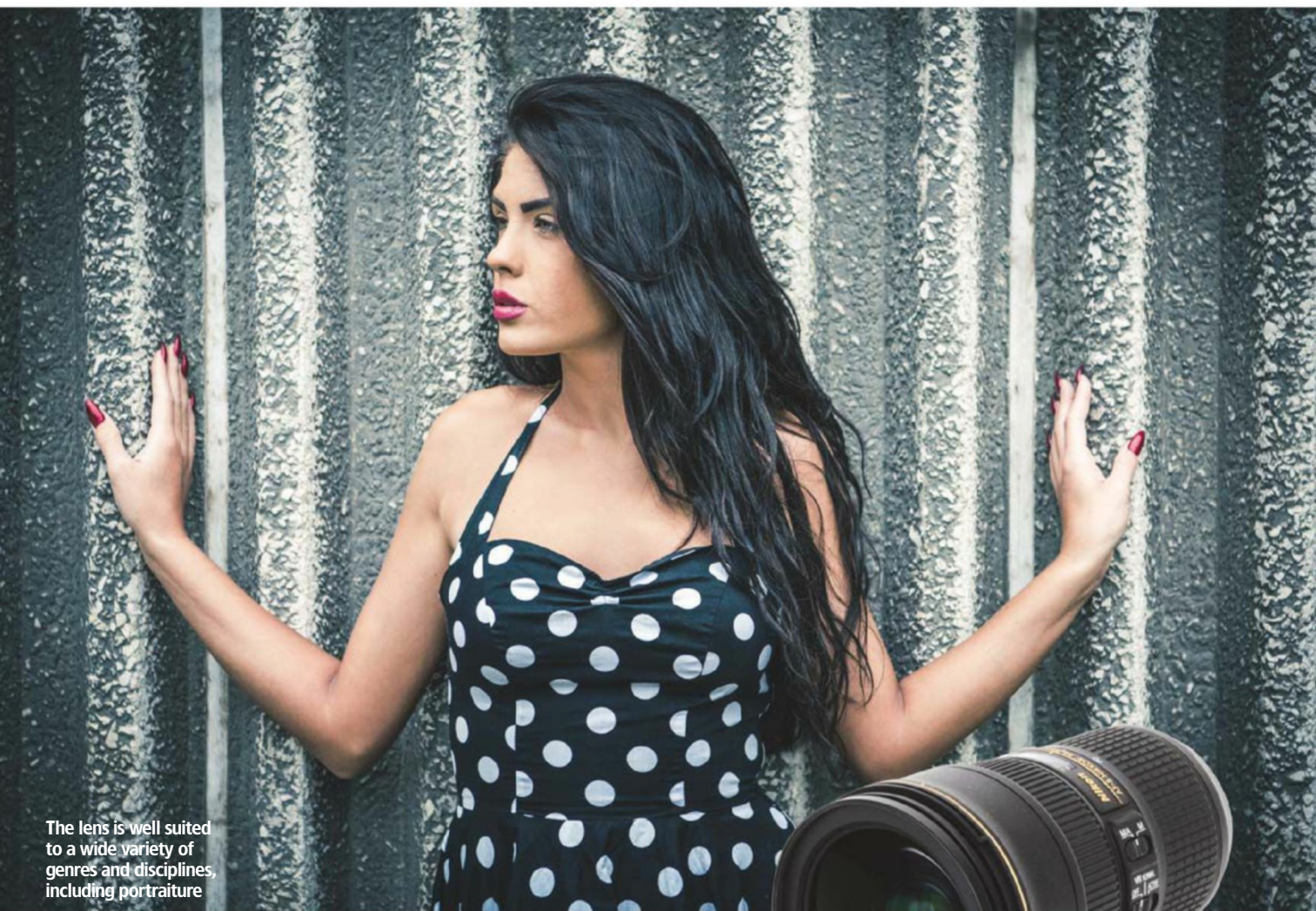
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# AF-S Nikkor 24-70mm f/2.8E ED VR

**Nikon's** latest pro-spec standard zoom promises to be its best yet – on paper, at least. **Phil Hall** finds out whether it lives up to expectations

One of the most popular lenses for photographers, both professional and enthusiast, is the 24-70mm f/2.8. It's easy to see why. Its fast constant maximum aperture and useful focal range make it incredibly versatile, and it comes as no surprise to learn that most photographers would struggle to live without it.

Nikon's AF-S Nikkor 24-70mm f/2.8G ED first made an appearance back in 2007, at the same time as Nikon's first full-frame DSLR, the 12.1-million-pixel D3. It became an instant hit with photographers, but with the arrival in recent years of ever higher-resolving sensors,

greater demands were placed on the optics. So will the AF-S Nikkor 24-70mm f/2.8E ED VR do enough to warrant the update?

## Features

Whereas the outgoing G version of the lens had an optical construction of 15 elements in 11 groups, the new lens sports a completely new design, with 20 elements in 16 groups. More telling, though, is the appearance for the first time on a Nikkor lens of a new Aspherical Extra-Low Dispersion (ASP/ED) element. This has been paired with Nikon's aspherical, ED and High-Refractive Index (HRI) elements, not

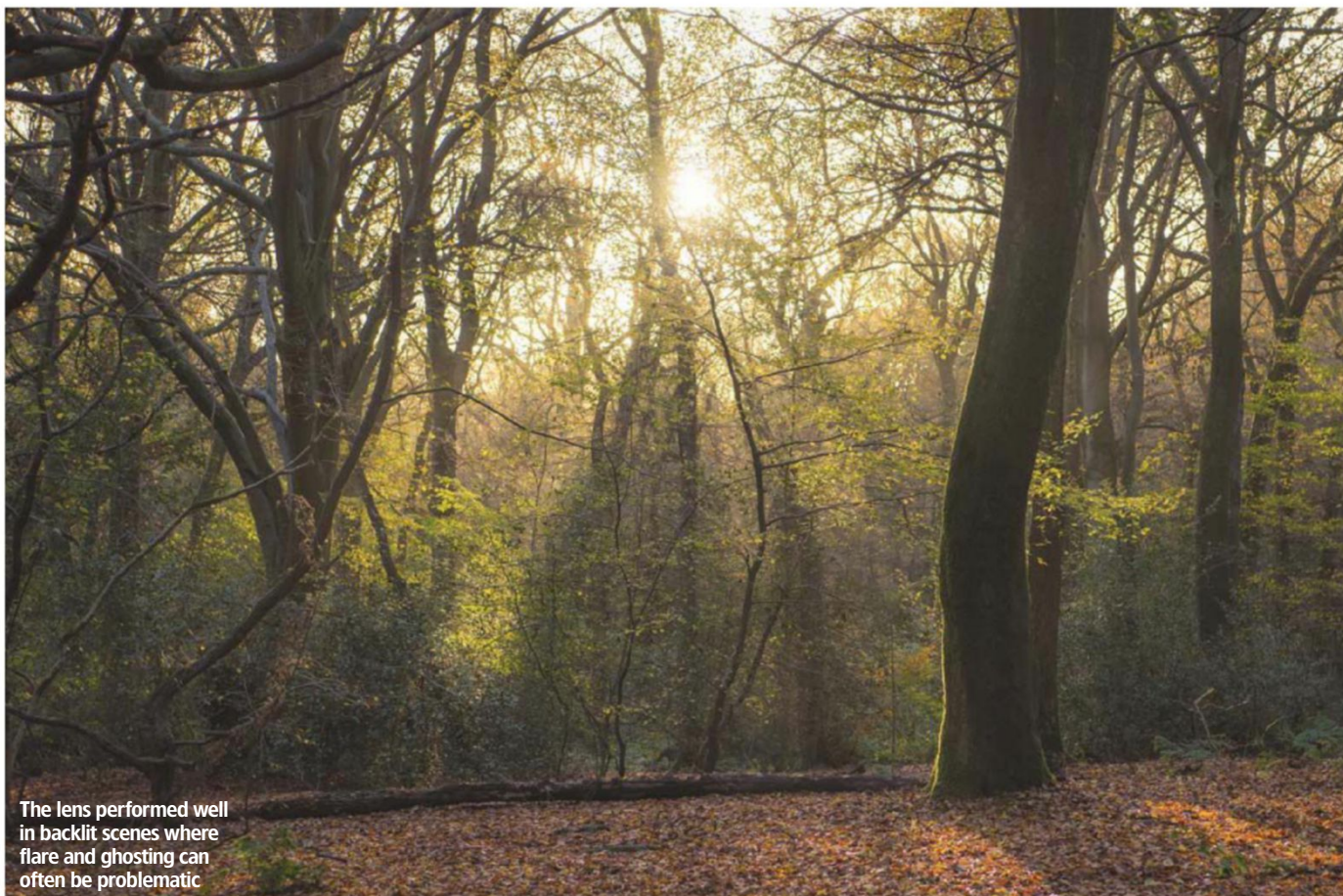
forgetting the Nano Crystal Coat to reduce ghosting and flare. It all promises to deliver new levels of optical precision. In addition, on the front and rear elements there is a fluorine coating that's designed to repel water, dust and dirt, as well as making it easier to clean.

As we've seen on Nikon's most recent lenses, the new 24-70mm uses an electromagnetic diaphragm (denoted by the 'E' designation) that's designed to provide highly accurate control of the lens's rounded diaphragm blades. This ensures more consistent exposures during continuous shooting. As you'd expect for a lens of this calibre, the design incorporates nine aperture blades.

One of the standout updates is the arrival of the company's Vibration Reduction (VR) anti-shake system. With the likes of the fabulous 36.3-million-pixel D810 putting more demands on the photographer to







The lens performed well in backlit scenes where flare and ghosting can often be problematic

➤ ensure pin-sharp shots, it's something a lot of existing users had been hoping to see. Promising up to 4 stops of compensation, there's the option of Normal or Active modes, with the latter suited to shooting from a moving vehicle or an unstable position.

If you have a number of pro-spec Nikon lenses, you'll be accustomed to a 77mm filter thread and no doubt have some compatible filters or adapter rings in your bag. However, rather inconveniently, this new lens sports an 82mm thread. Internal focusing, though, means filters will remain in position and not spin round as the lens focuses. When you consider the additional internal elements over the older model, it's hardly surprising that the size of the filter thread had to be increased.

## Autofocus

While the new lens carries the same AF-S designation as other Nikkor lenses, the silent wave motor (SWM) has been completely redesigned, with Nikon claiming it to be some 50 per cent faster than the older model. I've used the Nikkor 24-70mm f/2.8G for the past eight years and have never had any concerns with the performance of the AF, but the lightning-quick acquirement of the new lens is incredible. Focus noise is almost impossible to pick out in day-to-day use, only really being faintly audible if conditions are near silent.

## Build and handling

Whichever way you cut it, this is a big lens. As we've touched upon, the redesign means there's more to squeeze in. This has resulted



Stopping the lens down to f/4 sees minimal vignetting at the corners of the frame

in a beefy lens that tips the scales at 1,070g and is 154.5x88mm, compared to the 24-70mm f/2.8G that now looks quite compact by comparison at 133x83mm and weighing 900g.

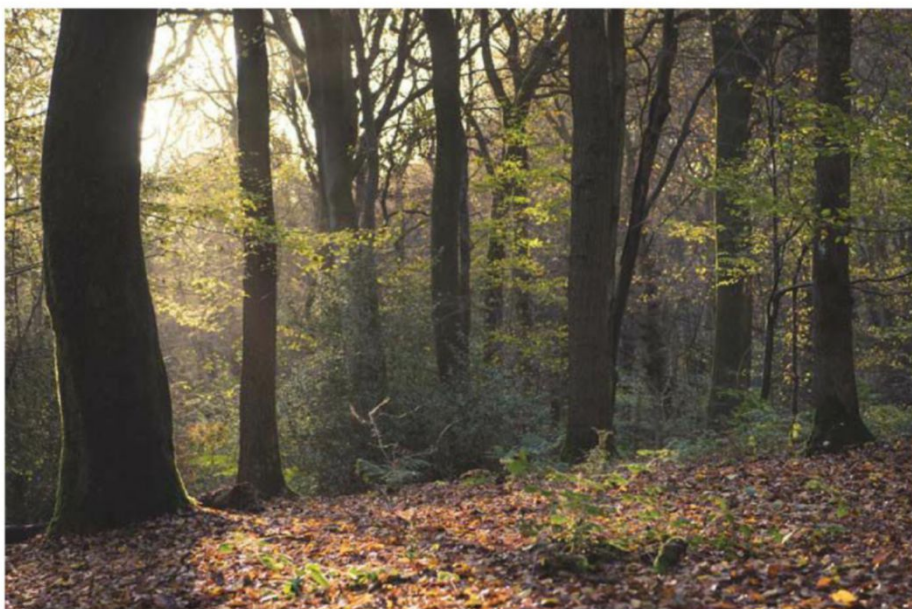
So, yes, it's big. However, when I paired it with a D810, I have to say I found the combination balanced extremely well and was comfortable to use. The larger size has

allowed Nikon to include a bigger rubberised zoom ring at the rear of the lens that falls to the hand nicely, providing a silky transition through the zoom range. Moving forward, there's a modest focus-distance-scale window, marked in both feet and metres, before we reach the finely ribbed contour of the manual-focus ring. Identical in size to that used on the outgoing 24-70mm, it rotates anticlockwise from infinity to closest focus (0.38m) with a smooth if slightly light-to-the-touch transition.

On the side of the lens are two switches grouped together. The top switch allows manual override of autofocus to manual operation with virtually no time lag, regardless of the AF mode you're shooting with. Below that is the VR switch, with settings for Off, Normal or Active VR modes. They're identical to the touch, so it's not immediately clear which switch you're selecting if you have the camera raised to your eye, but I did find the VR performed very well indeed, allowing me to shoot quite happily at 1/8sec and still achieve sharp results that would be possible otherwise.

As you'd expect from one of Nikon's top-flight lenses, the build quality is first rate. Nikon claims the lens has undergone a series of shock tests and inspections that have been repeatedly applied to movable parts of the lens barrel to ensure it is capable of meeting the demands of daily professional use. That's not forgetting the previously mentioned fluorine coating and the presence of an O-ring seal around the mount to limit dust and water entering the camera. The exterior construction is a mix of metal and high-quality plastic, with





Centre sharpness improves considerably at 70mm when the lens is stopped down beyond f/2.8

the now familiar dappled-texture finish providing a quality touch. You are left with an overall impression of a quality piece of kit that can will stand up to professionals' demands and the various challenging environments in which it will undoubtedly see regular use.

### Image quality

With a just under 3x focal range running from wideangle to telephoto, there's not quite the same demands placed on the optics as other lenses, but nonetheless, to deliver the sorts of images that will meet the demands of professionals, results have to be spot on.

Looking at the real-world shots I took with this lens, centre sharpness in images taken at 24mm wide open at f/2.8 are very good, although it does tend to render the edges of the frame a little soft. Stop the lens down and the sweet spot for those wanting to shoot at the wide end of the lens seems to be around f/8, when sharpness across the image is very impressive indeed.

At 35mm and wide open results are a tad sharper still, and while edge sharpness does gradually drop off a touch it's still a very strong performance, with best results overall appearing to come at f/5.6. It still performs very well at f/8, and while sharpness does tail off after that, it's still strong at f/11 but a little less so at f/16 due to diffraction. It doesn't quite deliver the same levels of sharpness at 70mm, with the centre at f/2.8 only just matching those of the edges at 35mm. That said, there's a big improvement when the lens is stopped down to f/5.6, with the centre matching results at 24mm and 35mm.

As you'd expect with a zoom of this nature, vignetting is most pronounced at f/2.8. There's more than a stop of exposure difference between the centre and edge of the frame at the extremes of the focal range, so you need to be prepared to correct for this in post. You'll also have to make corrections for slight barrel distortion at 24mm and pincushion distortion from 35mm onwards.



## Our verdict

AS THE outgoing G-series of this lens is such a strong performer, Nikon set itself a tough job in attempting to better it. However, the bigger and heavier (not to mention more expensive) AF-S Nikkor 24-70mm f/2.8E ED VR manages to do just that.

The inclusion of VR makes it a more appealing option, and while the pay-off is a slightly bulky design, this hasn't hampered the handling. The build quality doesn't disappoint, either. Then there's the autofocus – the speed of AF acquirement is truly impressive and a big jump in performance compared with the earlier lens.

While vignetting is an issue wide open, the resolving power of the lens, especially at the centre of the frame, is excellent through the zoom range. The optical overhaul this lens has gone through has certainly paid off.

If you're going to get regular use out of this lens and can justify the steep asking price, you'll be rewarded with a superb fast standard zoom that'll be perfect for a range of shooting environments.



### Data file

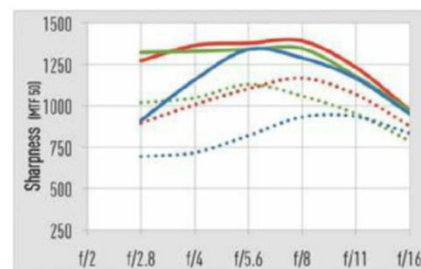
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## Nikon AF-S Nikkor 24-70mm f/2.8E ED VR

### Resolution

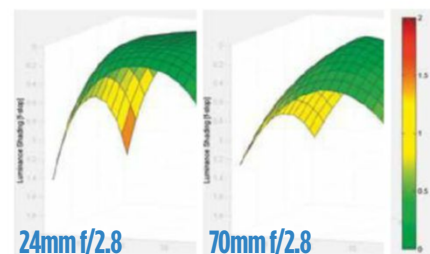
At 24mm and f/2.8 centre sharpness is very good, but edge sharpness does suffer. Optimum results can be had at around f/8, and while diffraction softens the finest details at f/11 and f/16, results are still very good. Sharpness isn't as impressive at 70mm at f/2.8, but improves considerably in the centre when stopped down at f/5.6. Edge sharpness at 70mm peaks between f/8 and f/11.



24mm centre — 24mm corner .....  
35mm centre — 35mm corner .....  
70mm centre — 70mm corner .....

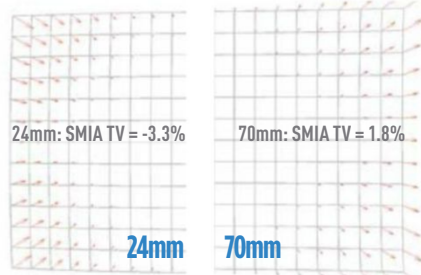
### Shading

The lens displays obvious vignetting wide open at 24mm, with the corners approximately -1.4EV darker than the centre. This improves to -0.8EV at f/4 and beyond that it shouldn't be an issue. It's a similar story at 35mm and 70mm, although at 70mm at f/2.8 the fall-off from the centre is a bit more dramatic, but not quite as strong at -1/2EV.



### Curvilinear distortion

At 24mm, there's some noticeable barrel distortion present, with the straight lines of our test chart bowing outwards. This disappears as you progress through the zoom range, with moderate pincushion distortion visible at 35mm that becomes more pronounced as you extend the range to 70mm.





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## Wider and better?

**Q** When I bought my Canon EOS 750D, I purchased it in kit form with the 18–55mm lens. I'm now looking for a wider lens and am tempted by the Canon EF-S 10–18mm f/4.5–5.6 IS STM, which falls within my budget. As I've read mixed reviews, how would you rate it for what seems like a very affordable lens? **Adrian Jenkins**

**A** The EF-S 10–18mm f/4.5–5.6 IS STM is an inexpensive, lightweight and ultra-wide optic that's designed to be a cheaper alternative to the manufacturer's EF-S 10–22mm f/3.5–4.5 USM. The STM abbreviation in its name reveals that it employs Canon's Stepping Motor technology for super-quiet focusing, and during testing we found it achieved almost instantaneous autofocus. The 4-stop image stabilisation and 0.22m close-focusing capability are other attractive features.

As for its performance, our scientific testing revealed the lens produces its sharpest results from the centre to the edge from f/5–f/11 and, as you might expect for such a wide lens, barrel distortion is evident at 10mm. The good news is there's barely any distortion at 18mm.

Vignetting is pronounced in the corners at the wide end when it's used at f/4.5, and some



Canon's 10–18mm lens is a very good optic for the money

lateral chromatic aberrations were noted towards the edge of the frame in our test images. That said, when you take its price and overall performance into account, it remains a great lens for the money and one we wouldn't hesitate to purchase if we were in your position. Canon is currently listing the lens within its Winter Cashback offer (ends 13 January 2016), meaning you can pick it up for its cheapest ever price of just £160!

**Michael Topham**

lenses, it's worth noting that there are no direct alternatives to those you're currently using. The closest are the Olympus M.Zuiko Digital ED 12–40mm f/2.8 Pro, a superb lens that costs £650, and the £350 M.Zuiko Digital ED 60mm f/2.8 Macro, which is a stop slower than your 50mm, but does offer 1:1 macro.

In your position, I think the best option is likely to be buying the E-M1 and using your existing lenses initially, then gradually replacing them with Micro Four Thirds ones if necessary.

**Andy Westlake**

## Inexpensive bags

**Q** Is it me, or is there a lack of reasonably priced shoulder bags capable of holding my Canon EOS 6D with battery grip, 24–105mm lens and 100–400mm lens? There are a number of bags that cost well over £150. I would rather not advertise the fact that I am carrying expensive camera gear, but with the dearer bags it is obvious what is in them. Any suggestions?

**Gerald Rayner**

**A** We recommend you take a look at a couple of Lowepro bags that are currently end-of-line items and are therefore relatively inexpensive. Both the Nova Sport 35L AW and the Urban Reporter 350 should comfortably hold your kit, and at the time of writing they are available on Amazon for £65 and £45 respectively.

In general, though, most bags that are designed to hold and adequately protect your costly kit do tend to look like camera bags. A way around this might be to buy a separate camera bag insert on Amazon or eBay, then use it in an alternative bag of your choice. The problem is finding one that is of high enough quality and strongly made at a price you're willing to pay. **Andy Westlake**

## Upgrades and lenses

**Q** I currently use an Olympus E-620 with 14–54mm and 50mm macro lenses. If I upgrade to an E-M5 or E-M5 Mark II and use the Olympus lens converter, will I see a benefit or a deterioration in quality, or should I look at compact system lenses?

**John Farebrother**

**A** In terms of image quality you'd see an improvement compared to what you're currently getting, as the 16MP sensor used in recent Olympus Micro Four Thirds cameras such as the E-M5 and E-M5 II is rather better than the 12MP sensor in your E-620.

Aside from the obvious increase in resolution, it also gives noticeably better results at high ISOs. The in-body image stabilisation is significantly improved, too, so you can use slower shutter speeds and lower ISOs in low light, as long as the subject isn't moving.

The penalty, however, is autofocus speed, which is likely to be noticeably slower on both E-M5 models. If you have the later Zuiko Digital 14–54mm f/2.8–3.5 II version it might not be too bad, as this was specifically redesigned to work better with contrast-detection AF. Unfortunately, though, your Zuiko Digital ED 50mm f/2 Macro is likely to be especially slow.

While this is unlikely to be a problem for macro work (where chances are you'll use manual focus anyway), it'll be an irritation if you also use it for more general-purpose photography.

Because of this, I'd advise you to look at the Olympus OM-D E-M1 instead, as it has a different sensor with on-chip phase-detection elements that's specifically designed to provide faster autofocus with Four Thirds-mount DSLR lenses. It also has a larger handgrip that provides better balance with adapted lenses. However, it costs £850 body only, compared with £770 for the E-M5 II.

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# My life in cameras

Wildlife photographer Heather Angel on the cameras that shaped her career. Visit [www.heatherangel.co.uk](http://www.heatherangel.co.uk)

## Heather Angel



Heather Angel is a freelance wildlife photographer. Her great passions are photographing mammals, plants and macro subjects. In recent years, she has invested a lot of time in working at Kew Gardens in Surrey, documenting the

wildlife there. She has published various books and had her work featured in numerous exhibitions and articles throughout the world.

### 1962 Exakta Varex IIa

This, my first camera, was a 21st birthday present from my father. As a family, we rarely took photos, so I hadn't a clue how to load a film, but I soon learned. I also learned how to use a Weston lightmeter, before departing on a three-month underwater expedition to Norway. The camera had a very useful device for a penniless postgrad student – a built-in film-cutting knife, allowing development of short strips of exposed b&w film.



### 1965 Nikkormat FS

From 1962–65, while doing research on marine life, the Exakta was exposed to a salty atmosphere. This caused corrosion of the outer ring of the shutter-speed mechanism, making it difficult to use. I then invested in a Nikkormat FS, which lacked any metering, but by then I was familiar with my



Weston. This was the first of many Nikons, a make I have used ever since over five decades.



© HEATHER ANGEL

### 1966 Hasselblad 500C

A 5x4in photographer advised me to switch to medium format if I wanted to be taken seriously. By selling some shares my father gave me, I bought the 500C with a 80mm lens. It was superb for landscapes and gardens. Later I used a Polaroid back to reveal 'hidden' UV patterns in flowers, before exposing film. My father was furious I sold the



shares 'just to buy a camera', but years later he admitted it was a wise decision!

### 1999 Hasselblad XPan

Before stitched panoramas were possible from digital images, I had my eye on this dual-format camera. It allowed the photographer to switch from 35mm to a panoramic 24x65mm format, with 21 pano frames from a 36-exposure film. By this time I had written articles and booklets for Hasselblad UK on macro. When Hasselblad Germany asked what my fee would be to write a feature overnight, I opted for an XPan camera and the deal was done!



### 2014 Nikon D4

My first digital camera was the Nikon D100 – hopeless for action shots as, after four exposures, you had to wait for the buffer to catch up. I bought the D4 the day before going to China to photograph pandas – something I advise people never to do!



But having used both the D2X and D3 it was not a problem. Normally I stick with a low ISO, but the D4 allows the ISO to be safely pushed for action shots in dark forests.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

## Pentax K-x

Ian Burley on this compact and affordable DSLR

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PENTAX came very late to the DSLR market with the oddly named 'ist D at the end of 2003. The company distinguished itself by making relatively compact and affordable DSLRs, and it had a large user base to sell to, thanks to the popularity of the K-mount film SLR system. The K-x was a prime example of the values buyers expected of Pentax.

**What's good** Image quality. While it has only a 12.4MP sensor, it's a Sony-made CMOS type and probably the best in class of its era. You also get 720p HD video-recording capability and continuous-shooting frame rates of almost 5fps. Last, but not least, sensor-shift image stabilisation works with any lens, even older ones, so long as you can program the focal length.

**What's bad** You can't see the positions of any of the 11 AF points. This is due to cost-cutting and differentiation from the more expensive K-7 model, from which the otherwise pretty good autofocus system was borrowed.





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**Professor Newman on...**

# Stills from video

Bob Newman looks at the resolution that's possible from a still image taken with 4K video

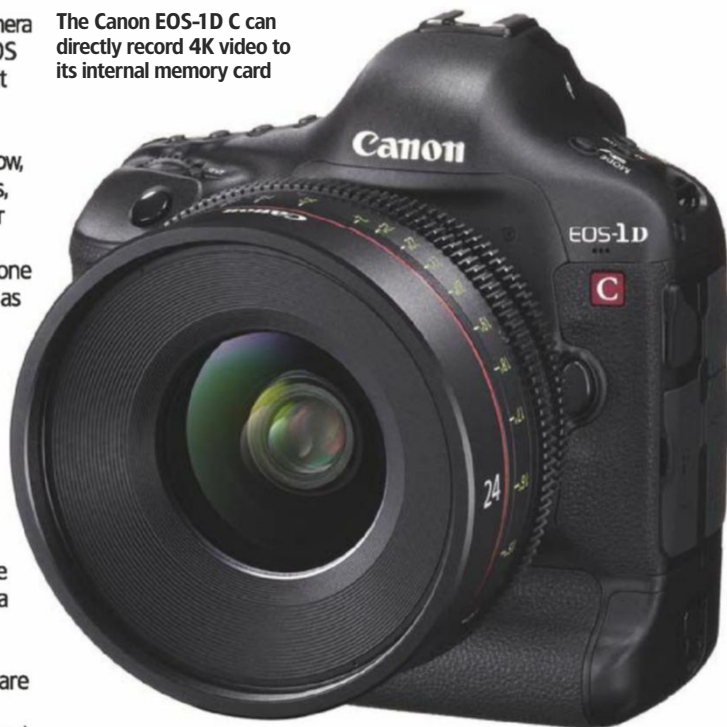
**M**y first digital camera was a Canon EOS 350D. At 8MP, it was capable of image quality that matched the film cameras I previously used. Now, in the next generation of cameras, that resolution will be available for video shooting.

The term '4K' video refers to one of two formats. The first, known as Ultra High Definition (UHD) TV format, gives 3,840 pixels across the width of the image and 2,160 pixels of height for a total of 8,294,400 pixels. The second format is Cinema 4K, which has the same 2,160 pixel height, but is 4,096 pixels across, giving a 1.9:1 aspect ratio rather than the 1.8:1 of the TV standard. Cinema 4K gives a total of 8,847,360 pixels, or nearly 9MP.

Cameras capable of 4K stills are already appearing. If we count only those that can directly record a 4K video to their internal memory card (there are some that can output a 4K signal to an external recorder), they comprise the Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH4, G7, GX8, LX100, FZ330 and FZ1000, the Canon XC10 and EOS-1D C, the Samsung NX1 and NX500, and the Sony Alpha 7R II, Alpha 7S II, Cyber-shot DSC-RX100 IV and RX10 II. These cameras cover just about every niche of the still camera market, from zoom compact (RX100 IV) all the way to top-end professional (EOS-1D C). Thus, even today, every photographer can choose a camera that produces 4K video. In the forthcoming generation of cameras, it will be ubiquitous.

The theme for this article is the stills potential of 4K video. This is spurred by the observation that in video mode, these cameras deliver the same resolution as did my EOS 350D, and that camera was

**The Canon EOS-1D C can directly record 4K video to its internal memory card**

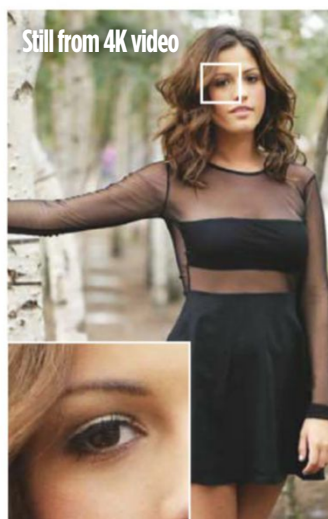


**'In the forthcoming generation of cameras, 4K video will be ubiquitous'**

broadly the equal of film in its day.

Today's 4K cameras are limited to 24 or 30 frames per second, which is slow in video terms, but fast as far as still frame rate goes. It's beaten only by the Nikon 1 series cameras, which can capture very short bursts at up to 60fps.

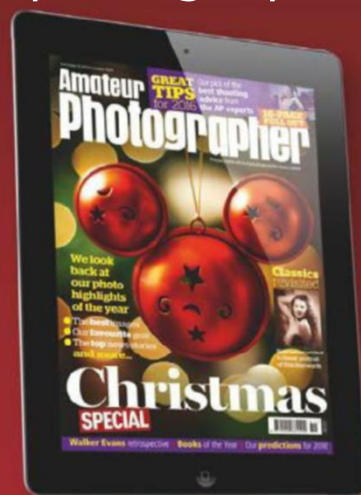
The top-end Canon EOS-1D X can maintain 14fps in JPEG for a burst of around four seconds, while these new 4K cameras can maintain a 'burst' of 20 or 30 minutes, so in a sense they can outperform the top action stills camera. In truth, this ability is limited: the cameras record in a video format, so to extract stills requires software that can reconstruct a still image from a video stream, and there is no chance of capturing images in raw.



**A still image from a 4K video delivers the same resolution as an image from a Canon EOS 350D**

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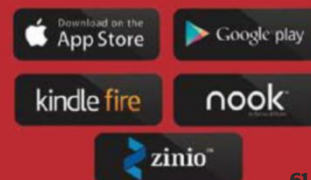


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**Bob Newman** is currently Professor of Computer Science at the University of Wolverhampton. He has been working with the design and development of high-technology equipment for 35 years and two of his products have won innovation awards. Bob is also a camera nut and a keen amateur photographer

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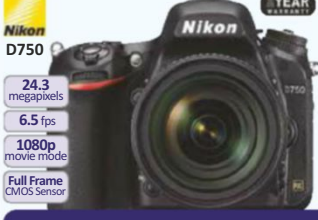
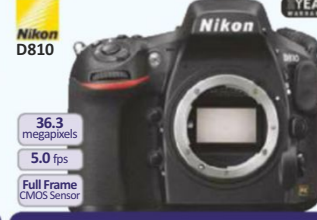

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95cm £59  
120cm £74.99  
Off Camera flash Cord From £30.99  
Tilthead £17.99

**Terms and Conditions** All prices incl. VAT at 20%. Prices correct at time of going to press. FREE Delivery\*\* available on orders over £50 (based on a 4-day delivery service). For orders under £50 the charge is £2.99\*\* (based on a 4-day delivery service). For Next Working Day Delivery our charges are £4.99\*\*. Saturday deliveries are charged at a rate of £8.95\*\*. Sunday deliveries are charged at a rate of £13.99\*\*. (\*\*Deliveries of very heavy items, N.I., remote areas of Scotland & Ch. Isles may be subject to extra charges. E & O.E. Prices subject to change. Goods subject to availability. Live Chat operates between 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri and may not be available during peak periods. †Subject to goods being returned as new and in the original packaging. Where returns are accepted in other instances, they may be subject to a restocking charge. ††Applies to products sold in full working condition. Not applicable to items specifically described as "IN" or incomplete (ie. being sold for spares only). Wex Photographic is a trading name of Warehouse Express Limited. ©Warehouse Express 2015. \*CASHBACKS are redeemed via product registration with the manufacturer. Please refer to our website for details. Showroom: Drayton High Road, (opposite ASDA) Norwich. NR6 5DP. Mon & Wed-Sat 10am-6pm, Tues 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm



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#### DSLR Lenses



##### CANON LENSES

EF 20mm f2.8 USM	£385
EF-S 24mm f2.8 Pancake	£127
<b>£107 Inc. £20 Cashback*</b>	
EF 28mm f1.8 USM	£345
EF 16-35mm f4 L IS USM	£682
<b>£607 Inc. £75 Cashback*</b>	
EF 40mm f2.8 STM	£118.97
<b>£98.97 Inc. £20 Cashback*</b>	
EF 70-200mm f4 L IS USM	£795
<b>£720 Inc. £75 Cashback*</b>	
EF 50mm f2.5 Macro Lens	£201
EF-S 55-250mm f4-5.6 IS STM	£200
<b>£180 Inc. £20 Cashback*</b>	
EF-S 60mm f2.8 USM Macro	£305
<b>£260 Inc. £45 Cashback*</b>	
EF 300mm f4.0 L IS USM	£959
EF-S 18-135mm f3.5-5.6 IS USM	£377
<b>£332 Inc. £45 Cashback*</b>	
EF 11-24mm f4L USM	£2799
EF-S 15-85mm f3.5-5.6 IS USM	£509
EF-S 17-55mm f2.8 IS USM	£519
<b>£474 Inc. £45 Cashback*</b>	
EF-S 18-55mm f3.5-5.6 IS STM Lens	£169
EF-S 18-135mm f3.5-5.6 IS STM	£295
<b>£275 Inc. £20 Cashback*</b>	
EF-S 18-200mm f3.5-5.6 IS	£356
EF 24-70mm f2.8 L IS USM II	£1400
EF 28-135mm f3.5-5.6 IS USM	£359
EF 70-200mm f2.8 L IS USM II	£1499
EF 70-300mm f4.0-5.6 L IS USM	£894
<b>£784 Inc. £110 Cashback*</b>	
EF 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 L IS USM II	£1844

EF-S 10-18mm f4.5-5.6 IS STM	£179
<b>£159 Inc. £20 Cashback*</b>	
EF-S 55-250mm f4.5-5.6 IS STM	£200
EF 16-35mm f2.8 L Mk II USM	£1064
EF 24-70mm f4 L IS USM	£675
<b>£525 Inc. £150 Cashback*</b>	
EF 50mm f1.8 STM	£97
EF 28-300mm f3.5-5.6 L IS USM	£1795
EF 35mm f1.4L II USM	£1799



##### NIKON LENSES

10.5mm f2.8 G IF-ED AF DX Fisheye	£549
14mm f2.8 D AF ED Lens	£1199
20mm f1.8 G AF-S ED	£579
24mm f1.4 G AF-S ED	£1379
28mm f1.8 G AF-S	£495
35mm f1.8 G ED AF-S	£429
40mm f2.8 G AF-S DX Micro	£185
45mm f2.8 D PC-E Micro	£1393
50mm f2.8 G AF-S ED Micro	£379
60mm f2.8 D AF Micro	£368
58mm f1.4 G AF-S	£1349
85mm f1.8 G AF-S	£339
105mm f2.8 G AF-S VR IF ED Micro	£659
135mm f2.0 D AF DC	£1029
180mm f2.8 D AF IF-ED	£695
200mm f4.0 AF Micro	£1179
300mm f2.8 D AF IF-ED VR	£1639
<b>NEW 500mm f4.0E FL AF-S ED VR</b>	<b>£8149</b>
<b>NEW 600mm f4.0E FL AF-S ED VR</b>	<b>£9649</b>
10-24mm f3.5-4.5 G AF-S DX	£639
14-24mm f2.8 G ED AF-S	£1315
<b>NEW 16-80mm f2.8-4G ED AF-S DX VR</b>	<b>£869</b>
16-85mm f3.5-5.6 G ED AF-S DX VR	£429

17-55mm f2.8 G ED DX AF-S IF	£979
18-35mm f3.5-4.5G AF-S ED	£519
18-105mm AF-S DX f3.5-5.6 G ED VR	£195
18-140mm f3.5-5.6 G ED AF-S DX VR	£429
18-200mm f3.5-5.6 G ED AF-S DX VR II	£549
18-300mm f3.5-5.6 G ED AF-S VR	£669
24-70mm f2.8 G ED AF-S	£1199
24-85mm f3.5-4.5 AF-S G ED VR	£375
24-120mm f4 G AF-S ED VR	£729
28-300mm f3.5-5.6 G ED AF-S VR	£655
55-200mm f4.0-5.6 G AF-S ED DX VR II	£254
55-300mm f4.5-5.6 G AF-S DX VR	£269
70-200mm f2.8G ED AF-S VR II	£1579
70-300mm f4.5-5.6 G ED AF-S IF VR	£429
80-400mm f4.5-5.6 G ED AF-S VR	£1799
<b>NEW 24-70mm f2.8E AF-S ED VR</b>	<b>£1849</b>
<b>NEW 200-500mm f5.6E AF-S ED VR</b>	<b>£1179</b>
<b>NEW 24mm f1.8G AF-S ED</b>	<b>£629</b>

18-250mm f3.5-6.3 DC Macro OS HSM	£299
18-300mm f3.6-6.3 C DC	
Macro OS HSM	£369
24-70mm f2.8 IF EX DG HSM	£599
50-150mm f2.8 EX DC APO OS HSM	£739
70-200mm f2.8 EX DG OS HSM	£799
120-300mm f2.8 OS	£2609
120-400mm f4.5-5.6 DG OS HSM	From £639
150-500mm f5.0-6.3 DG OS HSM	£699
24mm f1.4 DG HSM A	£1299
24mm f1.4 DG HSM A	£669
150-600mm f5-6.3 C DG OS HSM	£849
<b>£799 Inc. £50 Cashback*</b>	
24-35mm f2 DG HSM A	£799

#### TAMRON

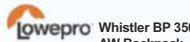
TAMRON LENSES - with 5 Year Warranty

180mm f3.5 Di SP AF Macro	£579
10-24mm f3.5-5.6 Di II LD SP AF ASP IF	£349
15-30mm f2.8 SP Di VC USD	£849
16-300mm f3.5-6.3 Di II VC PZD Macro	£399
18-270mm f3.5-6.3 Di II VC PZD	£269
24-70mm f2.8 Di VC USD SP	£679
28-300mm f3.5-6.3 Di II VC PZD	£529
70-200mm f2.8 Di VC USD	£929
150-600mm f5-6.3 SP Di VC USD	£799

Canon winter Cashback\* offer ends 13.1.16  
Sigma Cashback\* offer ends 31.1.16

For Canon-fit Tamron,  
Sigma or Samyang lenses,  
visit our website

#### Photo Bags & Rucksacks



##### Whistler BP 350 AW Backpack

Perfect for carrying a pro DSLR with lens attached, an additional lens, flash, accessories, a 2-litre hydration reservoir (not included), plus extra gear such as a bike helmet, jacket, snacks and a compact tripod.

Whistler:	
BP 350 AW	£257
BP 450 AW	£286

##### Photo Sport BP 200 AW Black



Photo Sport BP:	
200 AW	£118
300 AW	£147



##### Manfrotto Pro Light 3N1 Backpack

Designed to hold a digital SLR with battery grip and mid-range zoom lens attached, 3-4 additional lenses, a flashgun and iPad/tablet.

3N1-25	£139
3N1-35	£159



##### Anvil Slim Professional Backpack



Anvil:	
Anvil Slim	£189.99
Anvil Super	£189.99
Anvil Pro	£209.99

##### Billingham



Canvas/Leather: Khaki, Black, Sage, Black	
Digital	£109
Small	£139
Large	£154
Pro Original	£169

#### Computing



##### PIXMA Pro 100S

PIXMA Pro 100S	£375
PIXMA Pro 10S	£529
PIXMA Pro 1	£629



Intuos5 Pro Professional Pen and Touch Tablet	
Small	£150
Medium	£229
Large	£319.99

#### Digital Compact Cameras

Digital compact camera batteries, cases and accessories are available on our website



PowerShot G5 X  
£585



PowerShot G7 X £372  
**£25 CASHBACK\***  
£347 Inc. £25 Cashback\*

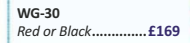


PowerShot G9 X  
£399

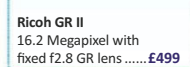
PowerShot SX610 HS	£129
PowerShot D30	£194
PowerShot S120	£200
PowerShot SX530 HS	£209
<b>£189 Inc. £20 Cashback*</b>	
PowerShot SX710 HS	£199
PowerShot G16	£289
PowerShot SX60 HS	£299
<b>£274 Inc. £25 Cashback*</b>	
PowerShot G1 X Mark II	£464
<b>£434 Inc. £30 Cashback*</b>	

Canon Cashback\* offer ends 13.1.16

#### RICOH

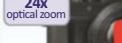


WG-30  
Red or Black.....£169

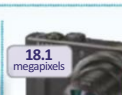


Ricoh GR II  
16.2 Megapixel with fixed f2.8 GR lens.....£499

#### Panasonic



Lumix LX100 £519  
**£50 CASHBACK\***  
£469 Inc. £50 Cashback\*



Lumix TZ60 £219  
**£40 CASHBACK\***  
£179 Inc. £40 Cashback\*



Lumix DMC-FZ1000 £589  
**£50 CASHBACK\***  
£539 Inc. £50 Cashback\*

Lumix FZ72	£196
<b>£166 Inc. £30 Cashback*</b>	
Lumix TZ57	£159
<b>£139 Inc. £20 Cashback*</b>	
Lumix TZ70	£260
<b>£220 Inc. £40 Cashback*</b>	
Lumix FZ200	£279
<b>£249 Inc. £30 Cashback*</b>	

Panasonic Cashback\* offer ends 25.1.16

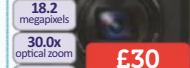
#### OLYMPUS



Stylus SP-100EE.....£225



Stylus Tough TG-860 Black, Silver & White.....£184



Stylus 1s.....£379



Cyber-Shot RX100 II.....£1093

**£1043 Inc. £50 Cashback\***

Cyber-Shot RX100 IV.....£539

**£489 Inc. £50 Cashback\***

Cyber-Shot RX100 III.....£759

**£709 Inc. £50 Cashback\***

Cyber-Shot RX100 II.....£569

**£519 Inc. £50 Cashback\***

Cyber-shot HX400.....£349

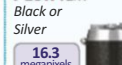
**£254 Inc. £40 Cashback\***

Cyber-shot WX500.....£244

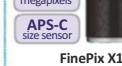
**£279 Inc. £30 Cashback\***

Sony Cashback\* offer ends 31.1.16

#### FUJIFILM



FinePix X100T £796



FinePix X30 £284



Coolpix P900 £499

FinePix S9200	£169
FinePix S1	£279
FinePix S9800	£178.99
FinePix XP80 Purple and Black	£124
XQ2 Silver and Black	£249

DJI Quadcopter  
Drones  
From £600



\*GoPro available separately

FREE delivery on orders over £50\*\*

\*\*Based on a 4-day delivery service, UK only.





# MrCAD

The Part-Exchange Specialist

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**IMAGO DIRECT**  
POSITIVE R/C B&W  
ON A MELINEX BASE

5X4 25 SHEETS £24  
5X7 25 SHEETS £30  
10X8 25 SHEETS £59  
11X14 10 SHEETS £52

**FOMAPAN B&W**

5X4 50 SHEETS

100asa £27  
200asa £31  
400asa £31

5X7 50 SHEETS

100asa £50  
200asa £53  
400asa £53

10X8 50 SHEETS

100asa £106  
200asa £122  
400asa £122

**ROLLEI LITH**

5X4 10 SHEETS £15

**ROLLEI ORTHO**  
6X9 25 SHEETS £21

**ROLLEI INFRARED**  
5X4 25 SHEETS £37

**10X8 + 5X4****COLOUR****FUJI 160NS**

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**KODAK EKTAR 100**

10 SHEETS - 11/14  
10 X8 £146

**KODAK PORTRA 160**

10 SHEETS - 08/13  
10X8 £160

**KODAK PORTRA 400**

10 SHEETS - 03/15  
10X8 £175

**5x4 FUJI 160NS £35**

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**5x4 FUJI PROVIA**

100F SLIDE £40

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**ROLLEI****BLACK & WHITE****A NEW WAY TO BUY****120MM OR 35MM**

RPX 25 ASA  
RPX 100 ASA  
RPX 400 ASA  
SUPERPAN 200ASA  
ORTHO 25 ASA  
RETRO 80 S ASA  
RETRO 400 S ASA  
INFRARED 400 ASA

ANY FILM £6  
ANY 10 £58

**IMPOSSIBLE****POLAROID****TYPE 600 / SX70****IMAGE/SPECTRA****COLOUR****OR B&W**

£16 EACH

2 FOR £31

3 FOR £43

**POLAROID****COLOUR****OR B&W****10x8**

10 Sheet Boxes

£129

**POLAROID****C3000+****250 Thermal Photo****Prints with Ribbons for****Digital Mini Portrait****Thermal Photo Printers**

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**120MM FILM****FUJI VELVIA****RVP 50ASA 120MM****DATED 01/14****10 ROLLS £55****FUJI 400H NEG FILM****400ASA 120MM****DATED 01/14****15 ROLLS £50****5 ROLLS £18****NEW SLIM UV****M/C FILTERS****62mm - £10****67mm - £12****72mm - £14****77mm - £16****82mm - £16****PROXAR FILTERS****48,49,52 OR 55MM****CLOSE UP****+1, +2 & +3****EACH SET £20****PENTACON****LEATHER LENS****HARD CASES****INSIDE MEASUREMENTS****M1 75mm x 75mm****M3 70mm x 165mm****M4 85mm x 105mm****M6 95mm x 165mm****M8 105mm x 110mm****M10 125mm x 215mm****M11 125mm x 255mm****M12 125mm x 335mm****ANY 4 FOR £26****MEDIUM FORMAT CAMERA'S****BRONICA**

ETR 105mm f3.5 Zenzanon E £255  
ETR 150mm f3.5 Zenzanon E £269  
ETR 150mm f3.5 E MC Lens £149  
ETR 150mm f3.5 Zenzanon £169  
ETR 150mm f3.5 PE Zenzanon MCE219  
ETR 150mm f3.5 PE Lens £219  
ETR 150mm f3.5 PE Lens £219  
ETR 200mm f4.5 Zenzanon MCE299  
ETR 250mm f5.6 PE Lens £199  
ETR 50mm f2.8 E MC Lens £249  
ETR 50mm f2.8 E PE Lens £259  
ETR 65mm f4 RF Zenzanon £199  
ETR 75mm f2.8 MK2 ETRS Lens £75  
ETR 75mm f2.8 PE Lens £99  
ETR Body - No Wind On Lever or Screen £79  
Bronica ETRC Body £96  
ETRS Body + WLF £159  
ETRS Body + Focussing Screen and Wind On Lever £139  
ETRS + 75mm f2.8, Plain Prism, Motordrive E + 6x4.5 Back £299  
ETRS Body + Foc Screen £129  
Bronica ETRS Body + WLF £199  
ETRS + 75mm f2.8 ELL, 6x4.5 Back and Rotary Finder £479  
ETRS + 75mm f2.8 PE Lens + Prism Finder E - NO Back £299  
ETRS + 75mm f2.8 PE Lens + Prism Finder E - NO Back £299  
ETRS + NEA 6x4.5 R/F Back £550  
ETRS + 75mm f2.8 PE, Prism Finder E, 6x4.5 Back + Speedring £449  
ETRS + 75mm f2.8 PE, 6x4.5 Back and WLF £459

**MAMIYA M645**

M645 145mm f4 Sekor SF £549  
M645 150mm f2.8 A Lens £299  
M645 150mm f3.5 Leaf Shutter £549  
M645 150mm f3.5 Sekor C £169  
M645 150mm f3.5N Lens £199  
M645 200mm f4 Sekor C Lens £189  
M645 210mm f4 Sekor C Lens £185  
M645 210mm f4 Sekor N C £199  
M645 45mm f2.8 Sekor C £259  
M645 50mm f4 Sekor C Shift £399  
M645 55-110mm f4.5 Zoom £359  
M645 70mm f2.8 C Lens £249  
M645 AF 55-110mm f4.5 Lens £499  
M645 Super + 80mm f2.8 C, 6x4.5 Back, Motordrive + Plain Prism £245

**BRONICA SQ**

SQ 105mm f3.5 Zenzanon S £349  
SQ 150mm f3.5 S Lens £229  
SQ 150mm f3.5 S Zenzanon £349  
SQ 150mm f4 Zenzanon PS £369  
SQ 200mm f4.5 S Lens £249  
SQ 200mm f4.5 Zenzanon PS £519  
SQ 50mm f3.5 Zenzanon PS £649  
SQ 50mm f3.5 Zenzanon S £299  
SQ 50mm f3.5 Zenzanon S £379  
SQ 50mm f3.5 Zenzanon S £149  
SQAI 65mm f4 PS £459  
SQ AI 135mm f4 PS Zenzanon £299  
SQ B + 80mm f2.8 PS Lens, 45 Degree Prism + 6x6 Back £459  
SQ Body (no Screen or WLFinder) £119

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RB 127mm f3.8 Sekor C Lens £199  
RB 140mm f4.5 Sekor C Lens + Ext Tube 2 £499  
RB 150mm f3.5 Sekor KL £399  
RB 150mm f4 Sekor SFC Lens With 2 Discs £279  
RB 150mm f4 Sekor SFC Lens With 3 Discs £389  
RB 180mm f4.5 Sekor C Lens £99  
RB 180mm f4.5 Sekor C Lens £199  
RB 180mm f4.5 Sekor KL L-A Pro SD Lens £539  
RB 250mm f4.5 C Lens £199  
RB 250mm f4.5 C Lens £179  
RB 350mm f6.3 Mamiya Sekor £449  
RB 350mm f6.3 Sekor C Lens £279  
RB 500mm f8 Sekor C Lens with Solid All Case, Bracket + Hood £1100  
RB 50mm f4.5 Sekor C Pro S £259  
RB 65mm f4.5 Sekor C Pro S £249  
RB 67 + 90mm f3.8, WLF £279  
RB 67 + 90mm f3.8, WLF £279  
RB 67 Body - No Foc Screen £89  
Mamiya RB 67 Pro S Body + 90mm f3.8, WLF + 6x4.5 Back £349  
RB 67 Pro S Body + Foc Screen + Revolving Adapter £189  
RB 67 Pro SD Body + WLF £400  
RB 67 Pro SD Body + WLF £499  
RB 67 Pro SD Body + 127mm f3.5, WLF £670  
RB 67 Pro S Body + 90mm f3.8, WLF £670  
RB 67 Pro S Body + 90mm f3.8, WLF £670  
RB 90mm f3.5 KL L Pro SD £399  
RB Pro S Body Only With R/F Adapter + Focussing Screen £189

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**Leica M4-2 with**  
**50mm f1.4**  
**Summilux M Lens**  
**£6950**

**Leica R3 Electronic +**  
**50mm f1.4**  
**Summilux R**  
**£6000**

**LENSES CONTD:**

300mm f5.6 Sch Symmar S £399  
300mm f5.6 Schneider Symmar S Lens in Copal 3 Shutter £399  
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300mm f8 Cooke Apotar Process £169  
300mm f8 Nikon APO Nikkor £299  
300mm f8 Rodstock APO Ronar £299  
300mm f5.5 Sch Tele Xenar £249  
300mm f5.8 Rodstock Tifendbinder Imagon + 2 x Diffusion Discs £399  
360mm f8 Nikon ED TeleNikkor £899  
360mm f8 Nikon APO Barrel £299

**LARGE FORMAT CAMERA'S**

Arca Swiss 5x4 Monorail £299  
Cambo Legend Monorail £899  
Cambo SXC Monorail £799  
Cambo Masterplus 2 £1299  
Devere Devon 5x4 Monorail £699  
Horseman 5x4 LX Monorail £199  
Horseman 5x4 Monorail £199  
Horseman 5x4 Monorail with Extra Long Rail £975  
Horseman 5x5cm Field Camera + 105mm f3.5 PS Lens + DDS £499  
Horseman 970 Body + Focussing Screen £359  
Linhof Kardan Cooke 45S £399  
Linhof Kardan 5x4 Cooke 45S Monorail + New Belows £399  
Linhof Kardan 5x4 Supercolor ST Monorail £269  
Linhof 5x4 Monorail £199  
Linhof Supercolour ST 5x4 £299  
Sinar Wolf 5x4 £1895  
Sinar X 5x4 Monorail £1999  
Sinar X 5x4 Monorail £1200  
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Sinar Norma 5x4 £499  
Sinar F2 5x4 £499  
Sinar P Monorail £1899  
Sinar P2 5x4 £1899  
Sinar 5x4 F Monorail + Panel £399  
Toyo 10x8 MK II Field Camera Inc Lens Panel £799  
Toyo 45A 5x4 Field Camera + 150mm f5.6 APO Symmar Lens + Bright Screen £1000  
Toyo 45A II 5x4 Field Camera with Bright Screen + Lens Panel £599  
Toyo Robos Monorail Inc Case £799  
Toyo View G Monorail £499  
Toyo View 5x4 Monorail £599

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10" f8 Golar Large Lens £149  
10.16 inch f9 Taylor Hobson Copying Lens £79  
109mm f6.5 Dallmeyer Covers £59  
125mm f6.3 Ensar Anastigmat £59  
13 inch (325mm) f10 Wray Lustrar Process Lens £99  
13.5cm f6.3 Schneider lens £59  
14 inch / 356mm + Foc Mount £89  
15 inch (380mm) f5.6 Wollensak Graflex Tele Optar Lens £199  
16 inch (400mm) f10 Wray APO Lustrar Process Lens £229  
16.5 inch 19.25 W A Brown Process Lens £149  
165mm f9 Weitwinkel Aristostigmat - Covers 5x4 + 5x7 £125  
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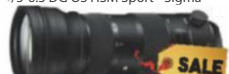
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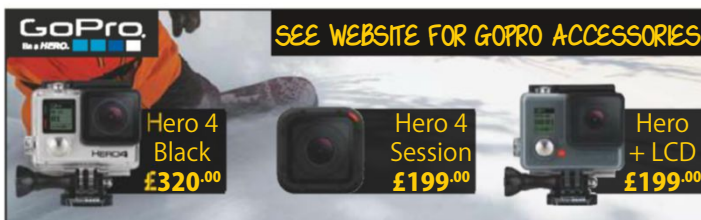
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April 10th, May 8th; Golden Eagle will fly, and perch in carefully chosen natural settings. Jesses hidden for static shots. Controlled flying. Also selection from; Owls, Buzzard, Hawks, Goshawk. Max. 8 photographers.

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April 2nd, April 23rd, April 30th; Up close to African Lions, Bengal + Siberian + Sumatran Tigers, Serval, Cheetah, Pumas, Jungle Cat, Amur & Snow Leopards, Black Leopards, Clouded Leopards, Fishing Cat. Large open enclosures. UK's most popular photo workshop. Really special photo opportunities from just inches away. Two sets of Lion Cubs born July & August 2013. Huge natural enclosure. Max 12 clients.

## Big Cats at WHF, Smarden in Kent - Specialist event 6 photographers - incl. Jaguar

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March 31st, April 1st, 22nd, 29th; Full day as above, but with additional space at each enclosure. Time is also put aside to review your photos at lunchtime. One to one tuition throughout this very special day. You will see all the animals as above and you will have more personal interaction with the cats. Now including Jaguar.

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## Gorillas & African Safari Experience, Port Lymne

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April 3rd, 24th, May 1st, 2nd; 3 gorilla sessions. No wires, fences or bars throughout the day. Clean backgrounds plus Privileged Access. Photograph at eye level over moat. Huge male silverbacks + family group. Private VIP Safari for 2.5 hours. Rhinos, Wildebeest, Eland, Zebras, Giraffes, Buffalo, Ostriches, various Deer.

## Birds of Prey Workshop, Bedford

£99

April 16th, 17th; Private flying displays on pre-determined flightpath helps you to focus on birds in flight. Excellent opportunities with carefully chosen backgrounds. Also static shots in outstanding natural locations. Jesses carefully hidden. This location boasts one of the largest collections of Birds of Prey in the UK. White tailed Sea Eagle, Bald Eagles, Hawks, Owls, Falcons, Kestrels, Buzzards and Long Eared Owl (new).

## Foxes, Otters, Wildcats, Badgers & more, Surrey.

£145

July 13, 14, 15; Inside enclosures 'til sunset. Also Owls, Snakes, Badgers, Polecats, Weasels, Stoats, Hedgehog, Harvest Mice & various Deer. 2 sessions with the foxes, sometimes only inches away from you. Inside enclosures with Foxes, Otters, Scottish Wildcats. Badgers GUARANTEED. No fences or wires to shoot through.

## Small Cats Workshop, Welwyn, Herts.

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April 4, 25, 28; Privileged access to Snow Leopards, Amur Leopards, Pumas, Caracal, Leopard Cat, Lynx, Servals, Golden Cat. As featured on recent series of TV programs on Animal Planet. Small groups. Tuition

## Bass Rock Gannets

£225

June 5th, 12th, 20th, 23rd; Private boat. Exclusive use of island for just 10 photographers. 50,000 pairs of nesting gannets on one small island. 4.5 hours photography. Amazing close-ups & fantastic flight shots. Large crate of fish fed to gannets as they dive into the sea. An amazing sight that you will never forget.

## Gannets diving off Bass Rock

£99

June 24th; Fantastic new workshop for 2014. We sail round Bass Rock without landing on the island. A whole hour of throwing fish into the sea for the Gannets to catch. Amazing diving shots. 1,000 + dives. Tuition.

## Farne Islands Puffins (Over 5 hrs photography)

£89

June 4th, 11th, 17th, 25th; 20 species of birds. 50,000 puffins. Guillemots, Razorbills, Shag, Arctic Tern colony etc. You will get unbelievably close to some of the species. Get that much sought after shot of Puffins with their beaks crammed full of sand eels. Tips and Tuition. Approximately 5 hours photography.

## Pro Birds of Prey Shoot, Bamburgh, Northumberland.

£139

June 18th, 19th; Amazing photography opportunities. Hill top views overlooking large extensive valleys and seascapes. Rocks and gorse bushes abound. Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Snowy Owl, Eagle Owl and Barn Owl will be placed in really natural situations. Jesses will be hidden where possible for those perfect "in the wild" shots. Can combine with Bass/Farne as this location is very close to the Farne Islands.

## Pro Birds of Prey Shoot (2) with Short Eared Owl, Northumberland.

£139

June 14th, 21st, 27th; Both the falconer and the birds are different to workshop above. Venues are about 20 miles apart. We will take two of the birds down to an amazingly beautiful, little known waterfall. This will provide a unique backdrop for your subjects. The falls are surrounded by trees covered with mosses and lichens. We will photograph up to 10 different species of birds, mainly British. Maximum 8 photographers.

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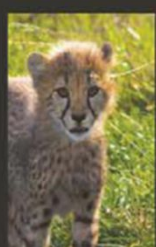
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June 6, 7; Indoor studio set-ups ensuring professional quality photos of stunning subjects. Studio lighting set up for you. Triggers to fit your camera supplied. Cameras and lenses can be loaned without charge. Innovative set-ups to maximise your opportunities. Max 4 persons. Harvest Mice, Red Eyed Tree Frogs, Praying Mantis, Locust, Bearded Dragon, Scorpion, Tarantula, Snakes, Lizards etc.

## Birds of Prey on Lindisfarne (Holy Island) incl. Short Eared Owl NEW WORKSHOP

£139

JUNE 2, 3; New workshop for 2016. Photograph a Short Eared Owl in its natural habitat before continuing with selection from Eagle Owl, Long Eared Owl, Barn Owl, Buzzard, Kestrel, Little Owl, Tawny Owl using boats, Lindisfarne Castle, boat houses & fishing props as backdrops.



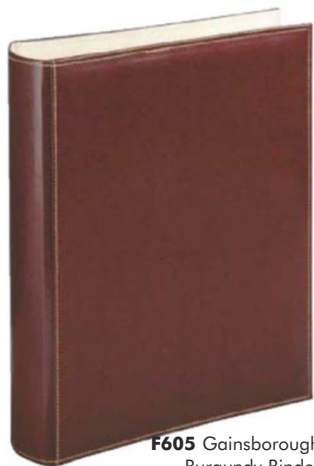
For more information, please visit the website or call John Wright on 01664 474040 or 07779 648850 (preferred). We will be most happy to discuss any workshop in detail, or to send more detailed leaflets to anyone without internet access. Photographers on Safari, West End Studios, 55 Stapleford Road, Whissendine, Oakham, Rutland. LE15 7HF



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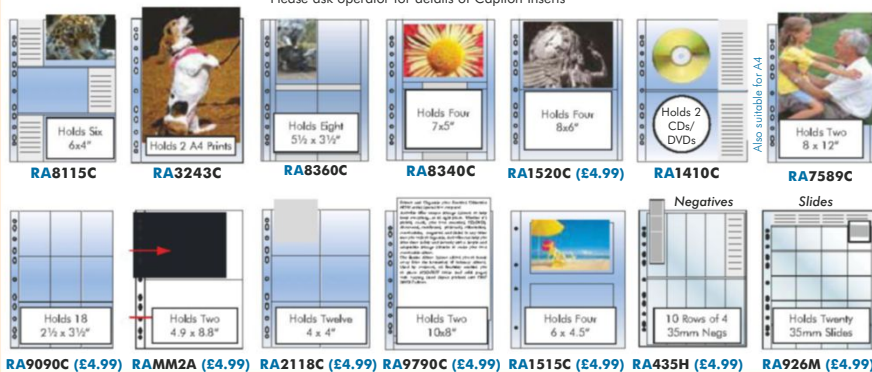


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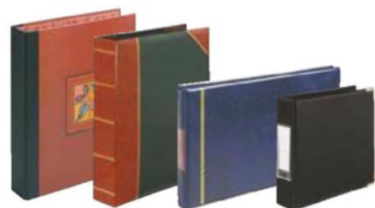


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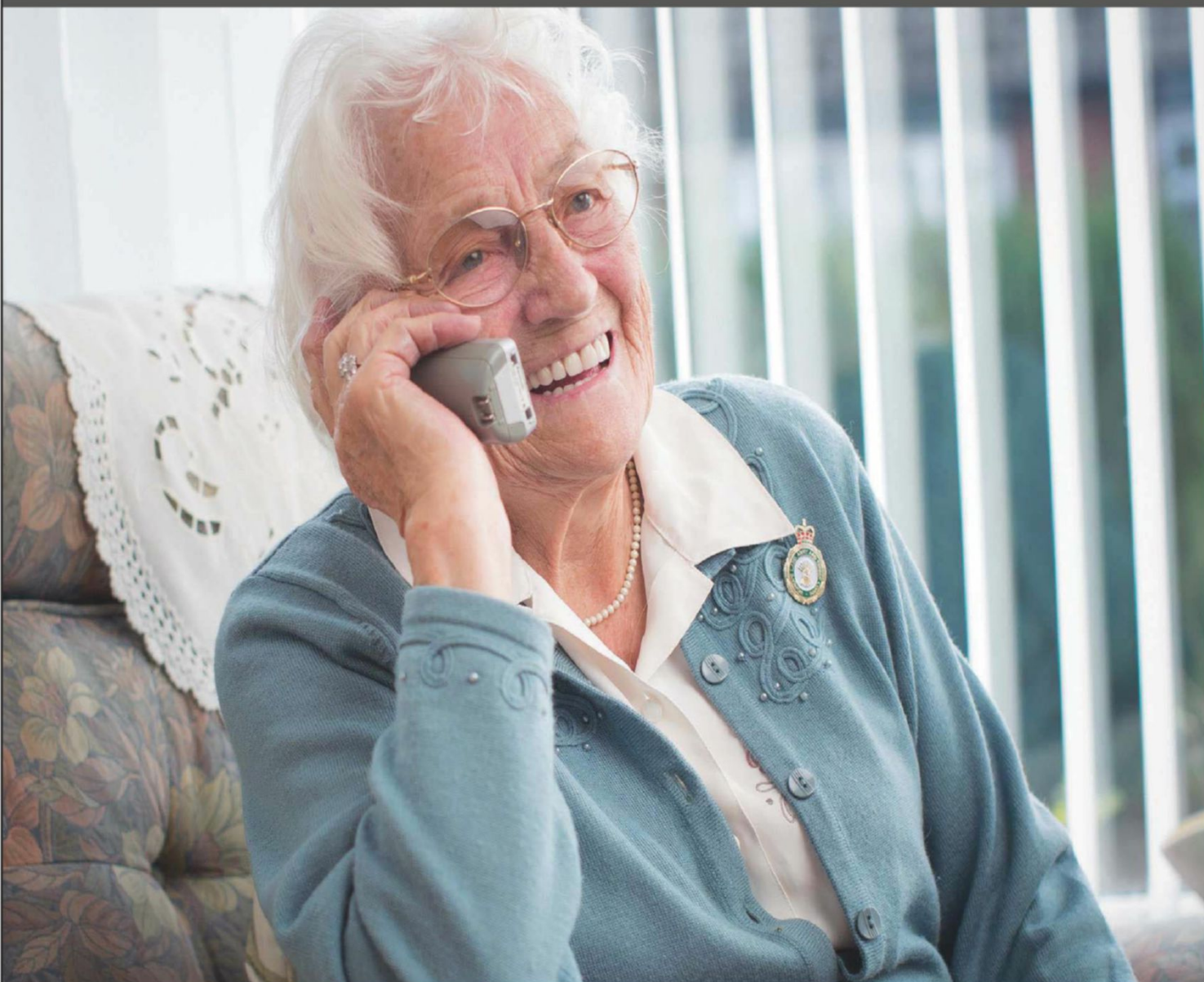


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10x42 Trinovid	£1,399
8x42 Ultravid HD	£1,399
Monovid	£339
7x42 Ultravid HD-Plus	£1,439
8x42 Ultravid HD-Plus	£1,485
10x42 Ultravid HD-Plus	£1,529
10x50 Ultravid HD-Plus	£1,575
12x50 Ultravid HD-Plus	£1,665

## FUJIFILM

X-T1 + 18-135mm	£1,249
X-T1 + 18-55mm	£1,149
X-T1 Body	£842
X-T1 Graphite Body	£999
X100T Silver/Black	£839
X-Pro1 + 18mm + 27mm	£649
X30 Silver/Black	£329
XF 16-55mm f2.8 R LM WR	£741
XF 10-24mm f4 OIS	£714
XF 35mm f1.4	£379
XF 50-140mm f2.8 OIS	£1,099
XF 55-200mm f3.5-4.8 OIS	£486
XF 14mm f2.8	£648
XF 16mm f1.4 R WR	£729
XF 23mm f1.4	£649
XF 60mm f2.4 R	£408
XF 56mm f1.2	£723
XF 90mm f2 R LM WR	£649

See website for full listing

Cash back available

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10x32 EL Field Pro	£1,495
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10x50 EL Field Pro	£1,820
12x50 EL Field Pro	£1,935
8x42 EL Range WB	£1,935
10x42 EL Range WB	£2,268
ATX 30-70x95 Spotting Scope	£2,870
ATX 25-60x85 Spotting Scope	£2,600
ATX 25-60x85 Spotting Scope	£2,150
ATS 80-HD Angled + 25-50x scope	£1,999
ATS 65-HD Angled + 25-50x scope	£1,539

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NEW Session Camera	£229
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Hero4 Silver	£250
Hero+	£149

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## SIGMA

Nikon/Canon Fit

8-16mm f4-5.6 DC	£519
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10-20mm f3.5 DC	£384
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18-250mm f3.5-6.3 DC	£299
18-300mm f3.5-6.3 DC C	£375
24-35mm f2 DG Art	£799
24-105mm f4 DG Art	£679
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70-200mm f2.8 DG	£799
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150-600mm f5-6.3 DG S	£1,399
35mm f1.4 DG Art	£636
50mm f1.4 DG Art	£669
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245mm f2.8 Macro DG	£379
180mm f2.8 Macro DG	£1,189

## Manfrotto

190XPRO3	£159	494RC2	£46
190XPRO4	£169	496RC2	£57
190XPRO3	£299	498RC2	£79
190XPRO4	£299	460MG	£299
055XPRO3	£179	804RC2	£57
055XPRO3	£359	MHXPRO-3W	£109
055XPRO4	£374	410 Geared	£153
Breeee Air	£149	MVH502AH	£105
Breeee Carbon	£279	MVH500AH	£122

Free monopod with carbon tripods

## 3 Legged Thing

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Brian Evo3	£379	Vyvv Evo3	£149
Jack	£249	Rick Evo3	£199

## INDURO

AT113/AT114	£99	CT113/CT114	£219
AT213/AT214	£118	CT213/CT214	£257
AT313	£149	CT313/CT314	£357
AT413	£175	CT414	£429

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Grand Series Carbon Fibre Tripods

CT203	£406	CT404	£518
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AGT114 (Alu)	£263	CGT114 (Carbon)	£395
AGT214 (Alu)	£304	CGT214 (Carbon)	£458

Heads

BHD0 £98/BHD1	£115	BHD2 £129/BHD3	£153
BHL1 £175/BHL2	£224	BHL3 £262/GHB2	£349

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NB-6L for Canon £9.99  
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NB-10L for Canon £12.99  
NB-11L for Canon £12.99  
BP-511 for Canon £12.99  
LP-E5 for Canon £9.99

### LP-E6 for Canon

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LP-E8 for Canon £12.99  
LP-E10 for Canon £12.99  
LP-E12 for Canon £12.99

### NP45 for Fuji

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NP95 for Fuji £9.99  
NP126 for Fuji £12.99  
NP400 for Fuji £12.99

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### EN-EL12 for Nikon

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AAA GP Recyco 3+1 FREE £5.24  
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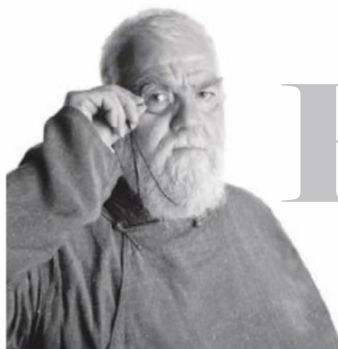
# Amateur Photographer

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# Final Analysis

**Roger Hicks considers...**

'Bombay', 1985, by Carl de Keyzer

**W**hat do you see when you look at this picture? For some, it will be surreal: the smiling, waving passengers in a seemingly apocalyptic landscape. Others may wonder at the 'funny old car'. And some will smile in recognition. Most people can imagine being in that car, but not all will imagine the same thing.

For a start, there is the car itself. It is a Hindustan Ambassador, essentially a mid-1950s Morris Oxford. It remained in continuous production in India from about 1957-2014, and more than two million were made. A few are still available new. They were used as taxis, ministerial limousines and, of course, as private cars. Slow, thirsty and expensive, they were (and are) all but unbreakable and surprisingly comfortable.

Of course, this is during the monsoon, so to anyone who has spent much time in India, this is a curiously comforting picture: a reminder of how the world was, and should be. It is an image of safety and comfort. This is the nature of common culture, a mélange of experience, history and education. Often my (American) wife and I feel that we share more common culture with our Indian and Tibetan friends than we do with most Americans.

Purely technically, it's unobtrusively clever. The Ambassador is driving into the frame, with more space in front than behind. The 'haunches' of the car disappear out of shot: a powerful animal, springing forward. Yes, I know it's an Ambassador, but that's the compositional impression.



© CARL DE KEYZER/MAGNUM PHOTOS

**'Technically, it's unobtrusively clever. The idea of surging forwards is seen in literal surging too, in the bow wave bottom right'**

Panning and the blurred lights in the background reinforce the idea of surging forwards. There's literal surging too, in the bow wave, a textbook example of how to drive through (fairly) deep water: the bow wave occupies much of the bottom of the picture.

Even in 1985, black & white was beginning to look old fashioned, but then again 'old fashioned' is a lot of what this picture is about. At that time, India herself was distinctly old-fashioned, to a considerable extent as a legacy of Gandhi's

doctrine of *swadeshi* or self-sufficiency. Successive Indian governments had failed to recognise that if misapplied (as it often was), *swadeshi* was a blueprint for stagnation, even if it was sometimes and for some people agreeable stagnation.

It well illustrates the old adage of 'f/8 and be there'. Technical considerations are normally of minor import in reportage. Compositional skills are another matter, but of course they are honed through practice. Almost any of us could have taken this picture

by luck, which is why Magnum traditionally wanted to see contact sheets (de Keyzer is a Magnum member). They want to see the picture in context: to see that it isn't pure chance, although of course chance is involved, as is in most kinds of reportage.

The 'f/8' part of the injunction is easily mastered. The 'be there' part – or rather, 'be there, ready to take the picture' – is what typically distinguishes the professional from the amateur. Or more exactly, the Magnum photographer from the sort of person who can't distinguish the occasional photographic holiday from full-time picture taking, or who dreams of glory without realising what glory costs.





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## | THREE SISTERS, DINGLE |

Smerwick Harbour is an amazing bay framed by fantastic bluffs at the end of the Dingle peninsula. The picture was made with a Linhof Techno view camera and a Phase One P45+ digital back. Although the aspect ratio of the Phase back is 4x3, I elected to crop this composition as I felt that a square format worked best here.

To balance the sky to the foreground exposure I needed a LEE 0.6 ND hard grad filter. I often say that the sky is the greatest show on earth, yet it is still necessary to get the exposure on earth right to get the picture to work!

Digital capture using a technical view camera is no easy task. But when everything works well the quality of the resulting prints is quite astonishing. That is why I use LEE filters, which allow me to get it right in camera. Because I often need to make huge enlargements, my filters must match the quality of the Rodenstock and Schneider digital view camera lenses that I always use. With their reliable neutrality and flawless optical clarity I know my LEE filters remain suitably 'invisible'.

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